ラーメン楽
一楽
みそ
NARUTO
SHONEN JUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume 16

岸本斉史

Recently, in movies... What?! Film commentary again?! ...But it's pretty much the only thing I can write about... Sorry. So, back to the story...These days, there are usually three performers per character or role. The first is the billed actor (the star). The second is the stunt man. And then there is the CGI stunt man for particularly dangerous scenes or difficult camera shots. They're very well constructed. At this rate, we may even eventually stop needing real actors...

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2003

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.

NARUTO VOL. 16
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

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STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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Design/Sean Lee
Editor/Joel Enos

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
NARUTO is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains realistic and fantasy violence.

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SHONEN JUMP MANGA

NARUTO™

VOL. 16
EULOGY

STORY AND ART BY
MASASHI KISHIMOTO

CHARACTERS

Sasuke
サスケ

Naruto
ナルト

Sakura
サクラ

Guy ガイ

Neji ネジ

Rock Lee
ロック・リー

Tenten
テンテン

Itachi
イタチ

Shikamaru
シカマル

Kiba & Akamaru
キバ&赤丸

Hinata
ヒナタ

Shino シノ

Choji
チョウジ

Ino いの

The Story So Far...

Twelve years ago a destructive nine-tailed fox spirit attacked the ninja village of Konohagakure. The Hokage, or village champion, defeated the fox by sealing its soul into the body of a baby boy. Now that boy, Uzumaki Naruto, has grown up to be a ninja-in-training, learning the art of ninjutsu with his teammates Sakura and Sasuke.

Naruto and company take on the Chûnin Selection Exams but suffer a sudden attack from Orochimaru in the Forest of Death. Orochimaru leaves a curse mark on Sasuke's body and vanishes…

During the finals of the Chûnin Exams, Orochimaru, disguised as Kazekage, takes the Hokage hostage and erects a barrier shield. *Operation Destroy Konoha* is underway! Meanwhile, Naruto and his friends have been chasing after Sasuke and Gaara, who is undergoing a terrifying transformation. Now, to save Sasuke and Sakura, Naruto must face off against this monstrous new version of Gaara.

NARUTO

VOL. 16
EULOGY

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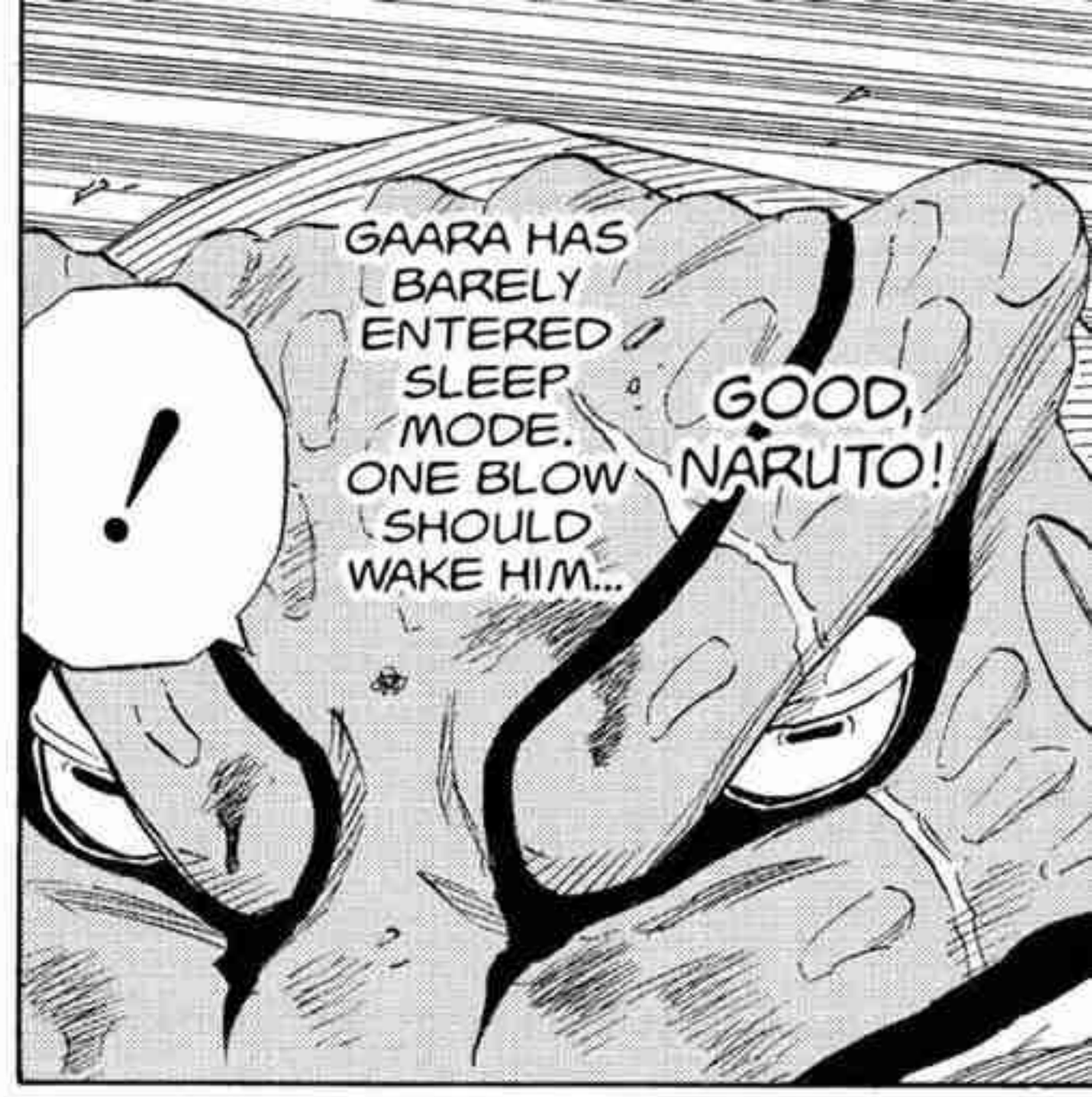
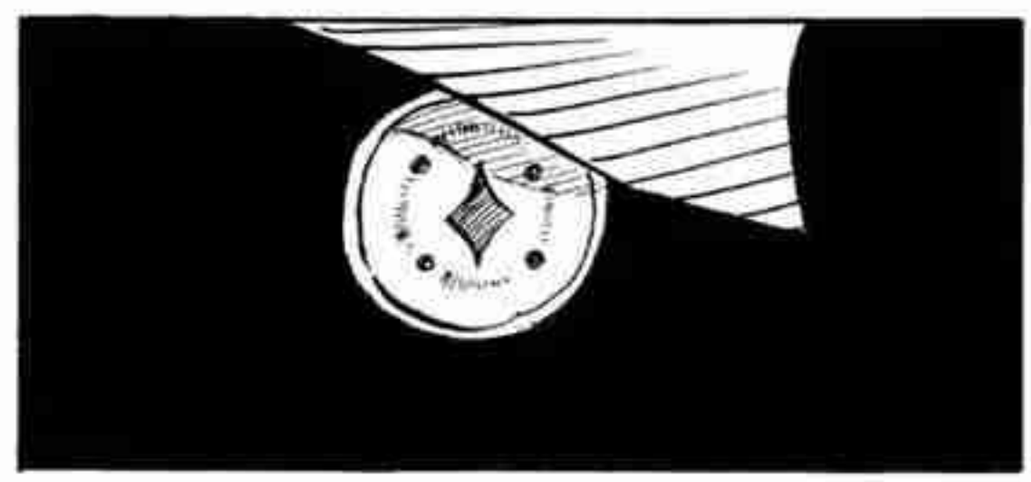
The Last Blow...!!

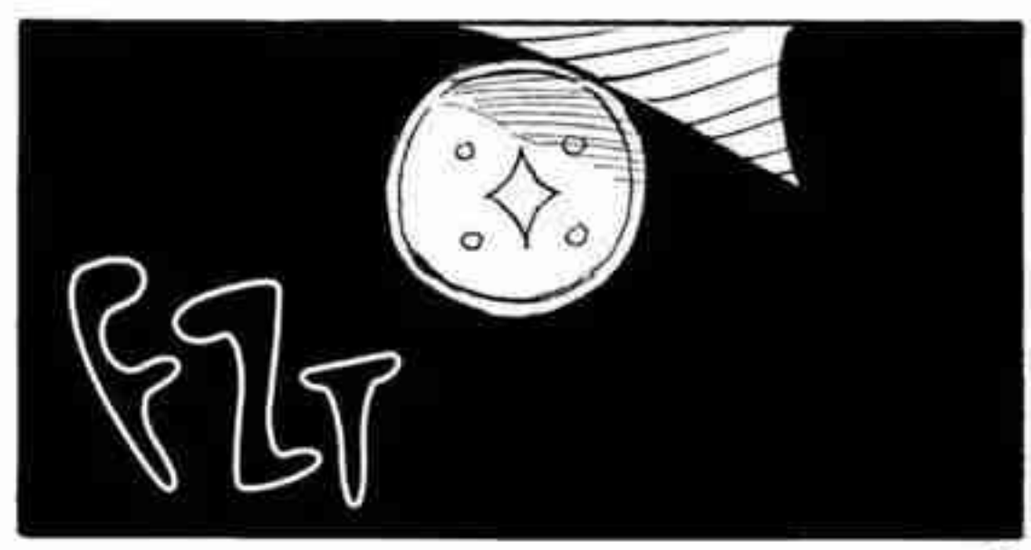
UGH!
THEY BLOCKED MY JUTSU!!
!!
FAP

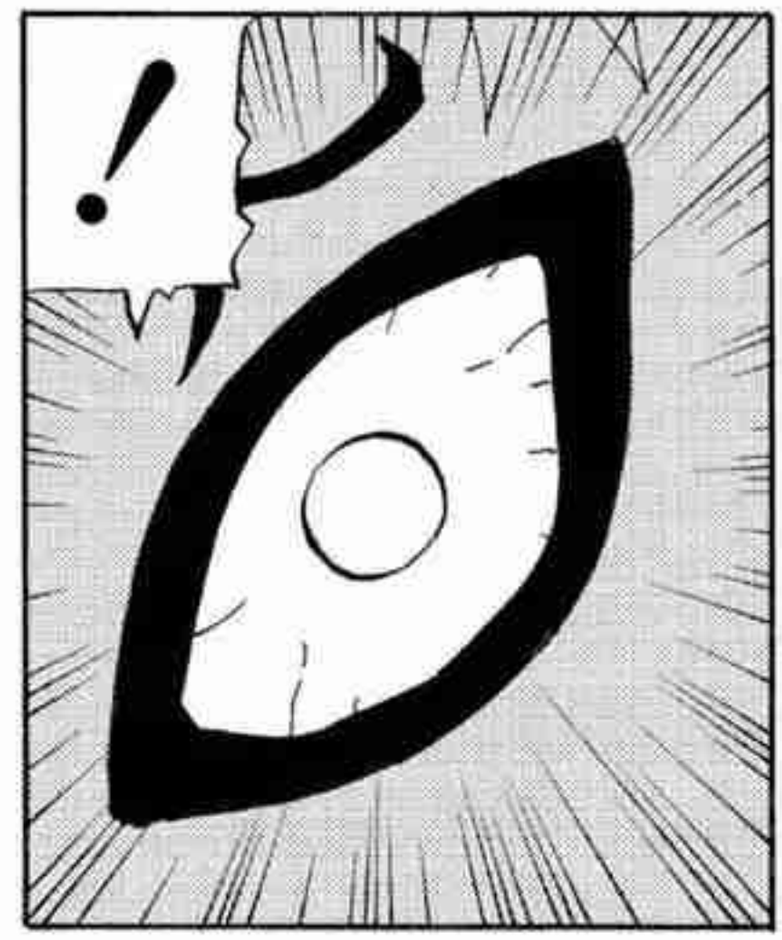

!
GAARA HAS BARELY ENTERED SLEEP MODE. ONE BLOW SHOULD WAKE HIM...
GOOD, NARUTO!

AAARGH!!
I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK IN!

KREEE
WE STOPPED HIS JUTSU! WHY IS HE STILL SO STRONG?!
SKRIIP




FLT



YAAAH!!

!
URK...
SQUE
LCH

!!
ZWIRL
PA!!

!!
FAWP
S.LAM
!!
DON'T YOU MOCK ME...
HUF
HUF
RRRRR
...THIS IS THE CHIEF'S TONGUE ...!

UGH!

GRRR...

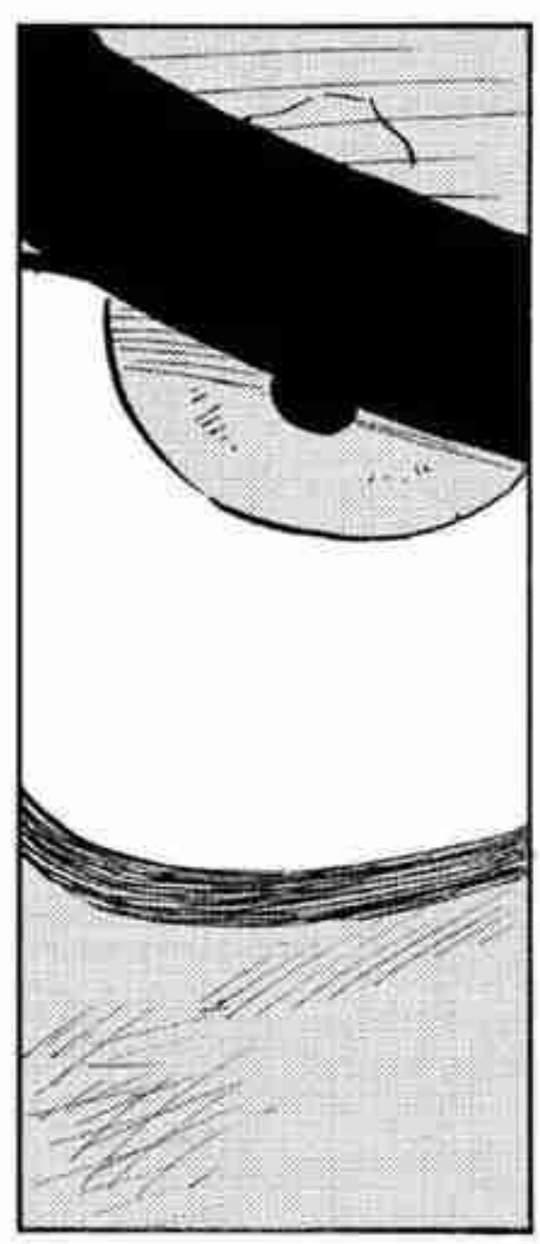
SLTTTH
SLTTTH

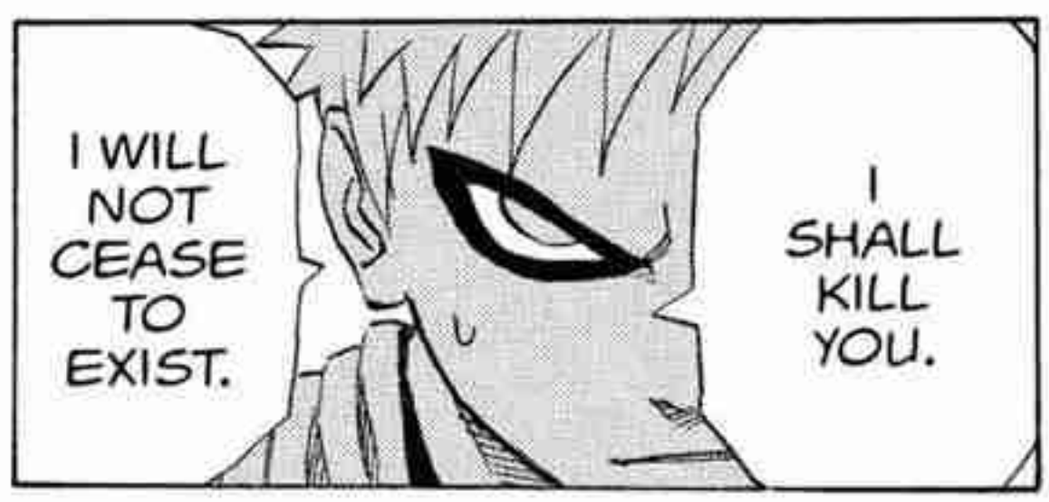
UGH!
JUST HOW MUCH STRENGTH DOES THIS ONE HAVE...?!
SHWUMP

SHFFF!

READ THIS WAY
...
HUF
HUF
NARUTO AND I HAVE BOTH COMPLETELY USED UP OUR CHAKRA!!
NOT GOOD...!
HUF
SNAP
SHFFF...
SNAP SNAP
SAKURA!!
!

SNAP SNAP
SHFFFF

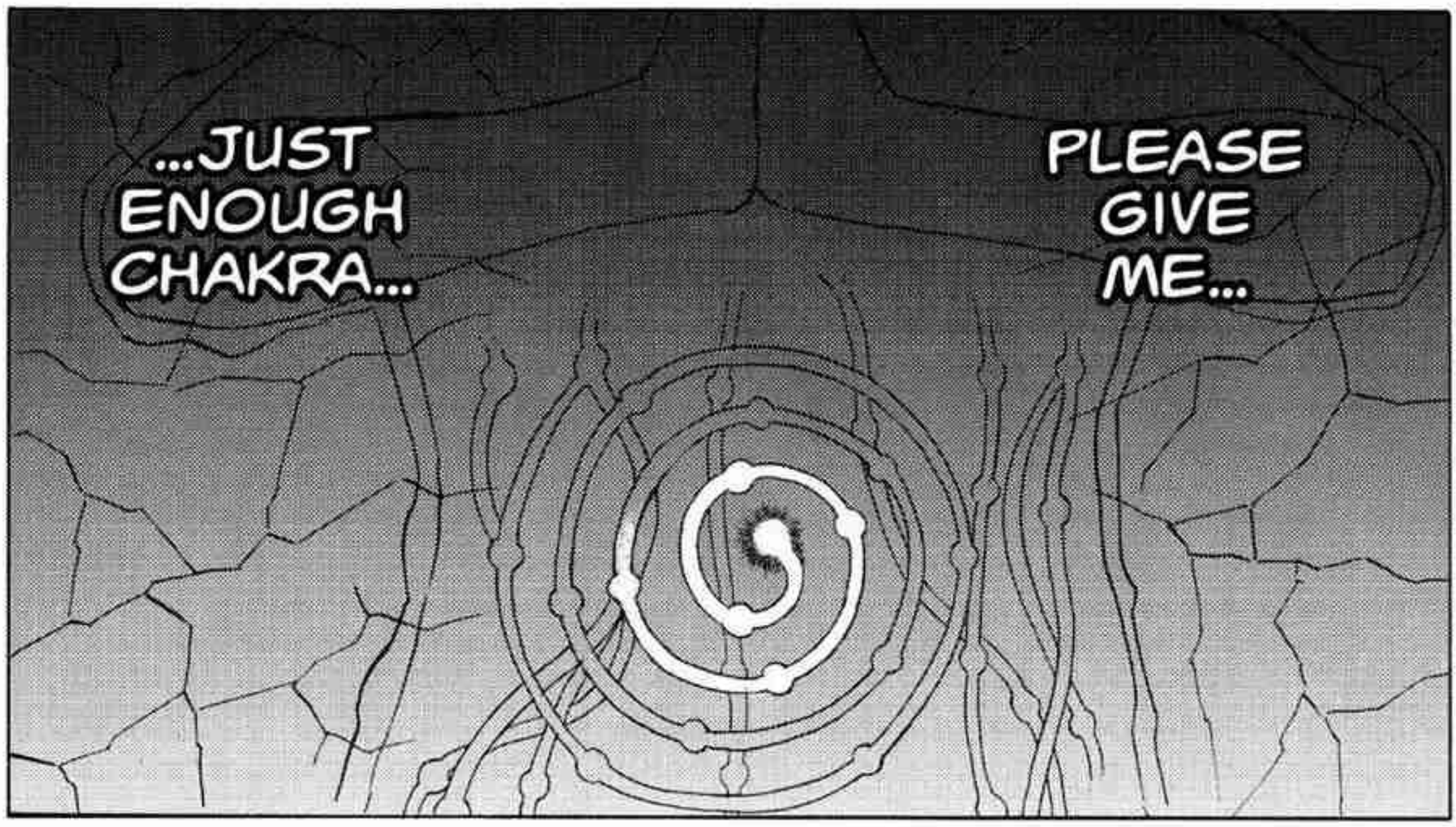



I WILL NOT CEASE TO EXIST.
I SHALL KILL YOU.

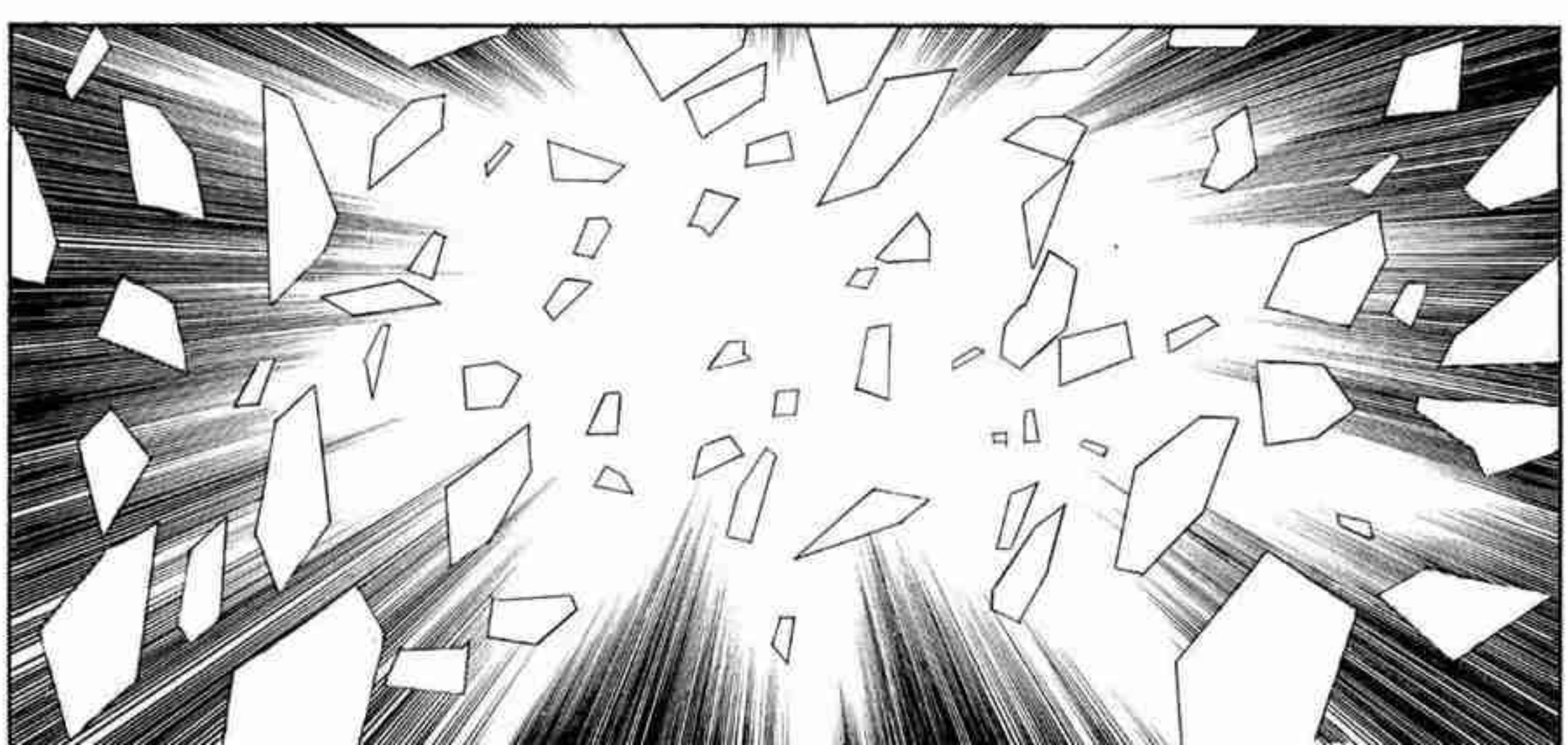
I'VE GOT TO STOP THIS TANUKI MONSTER.

...JUST A WEE BIT...
PLEASE...

SNUUUH


...JUST ENOUGH CHAKRA...
PLEASE GIVE ME...

...TO PROTECT EVERYBODY!!

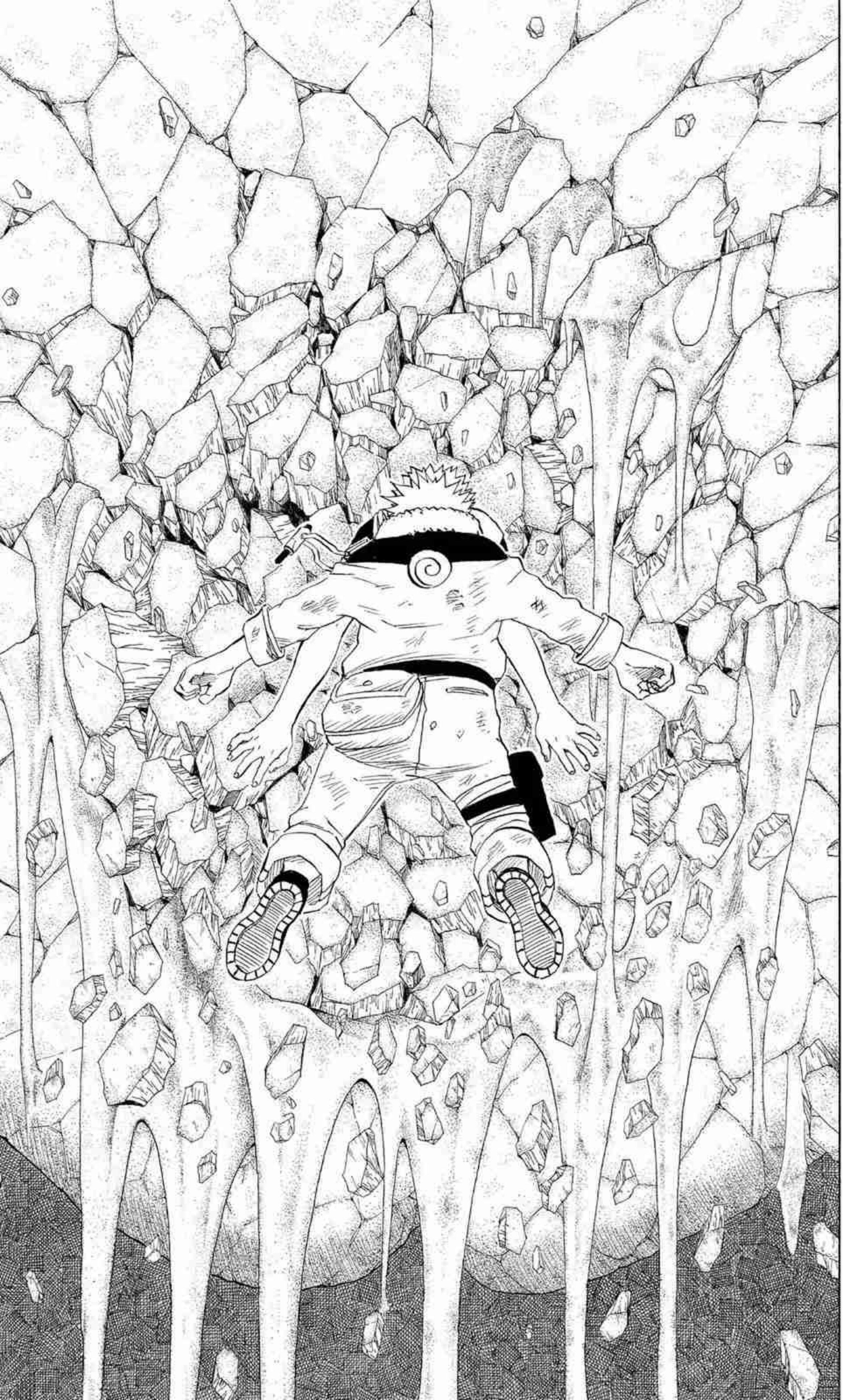


RRRROAR!!

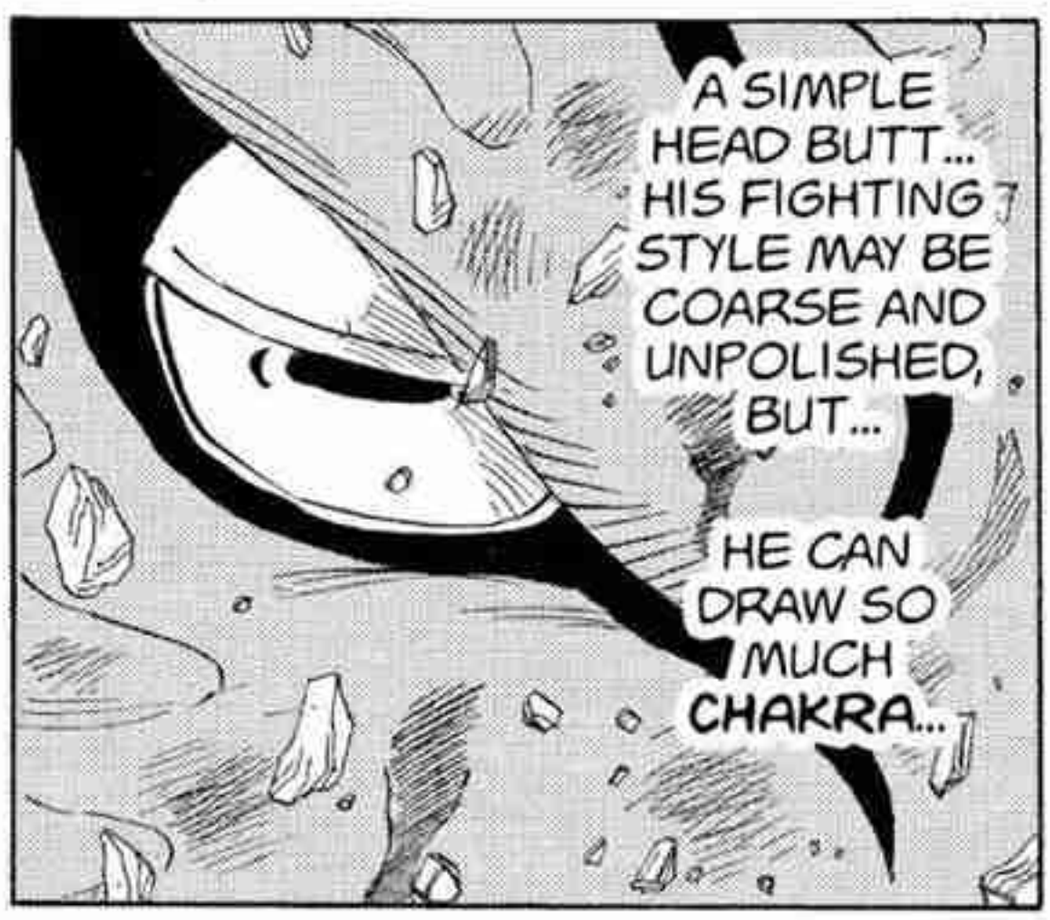
READ THIS WAY
DIE!
SHUP
HERE I COME!! YOU DUMB TANUKI!!
SHOOO
ZOOM
YOU...
RAKOOSH
!

...
BRUTE
!!!

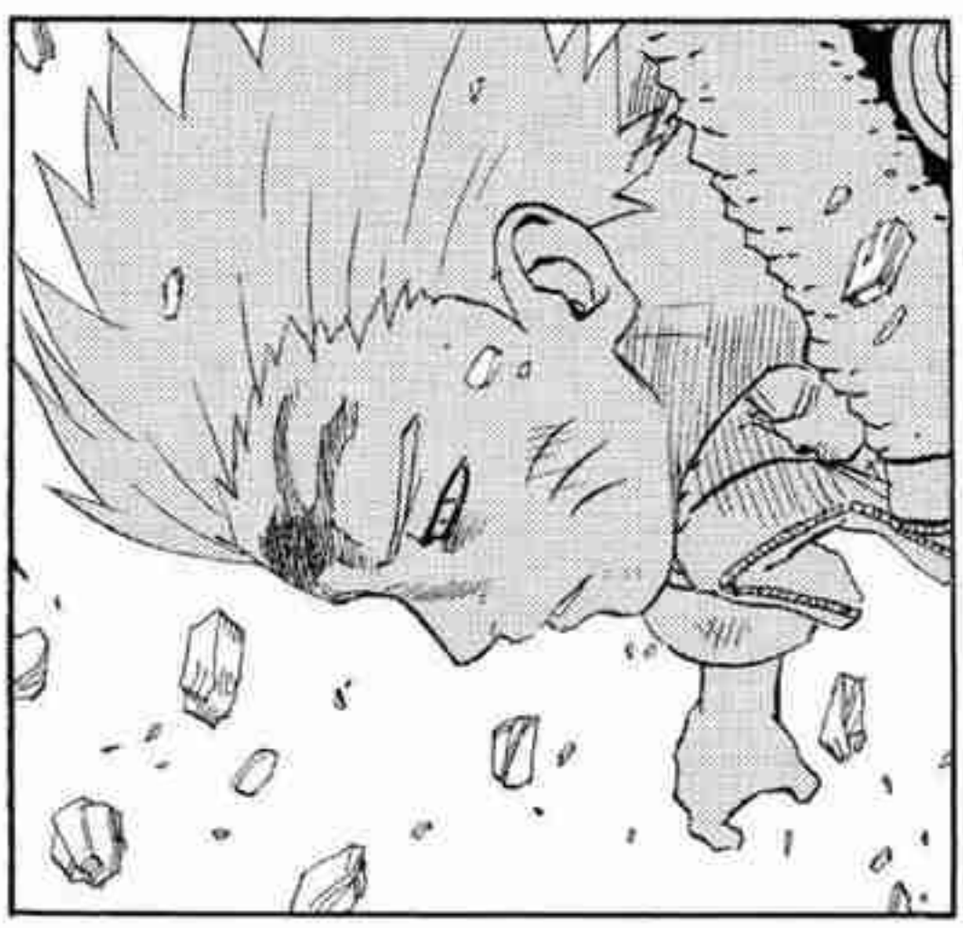
WHAM



FUMP


A SIMPLE HEAD BUTT... HIS FIGHTING STYLE MAY BE COARSE AND UNPOLISHED, BUT...
HE CAN DRAW SO MUCH CHAKRA...

DID HE WIN?!
...!



I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A BUMBLING NINJA BEFORE, BUT HE'S CERTAINLY AN EXTRAORDINARY BOY!

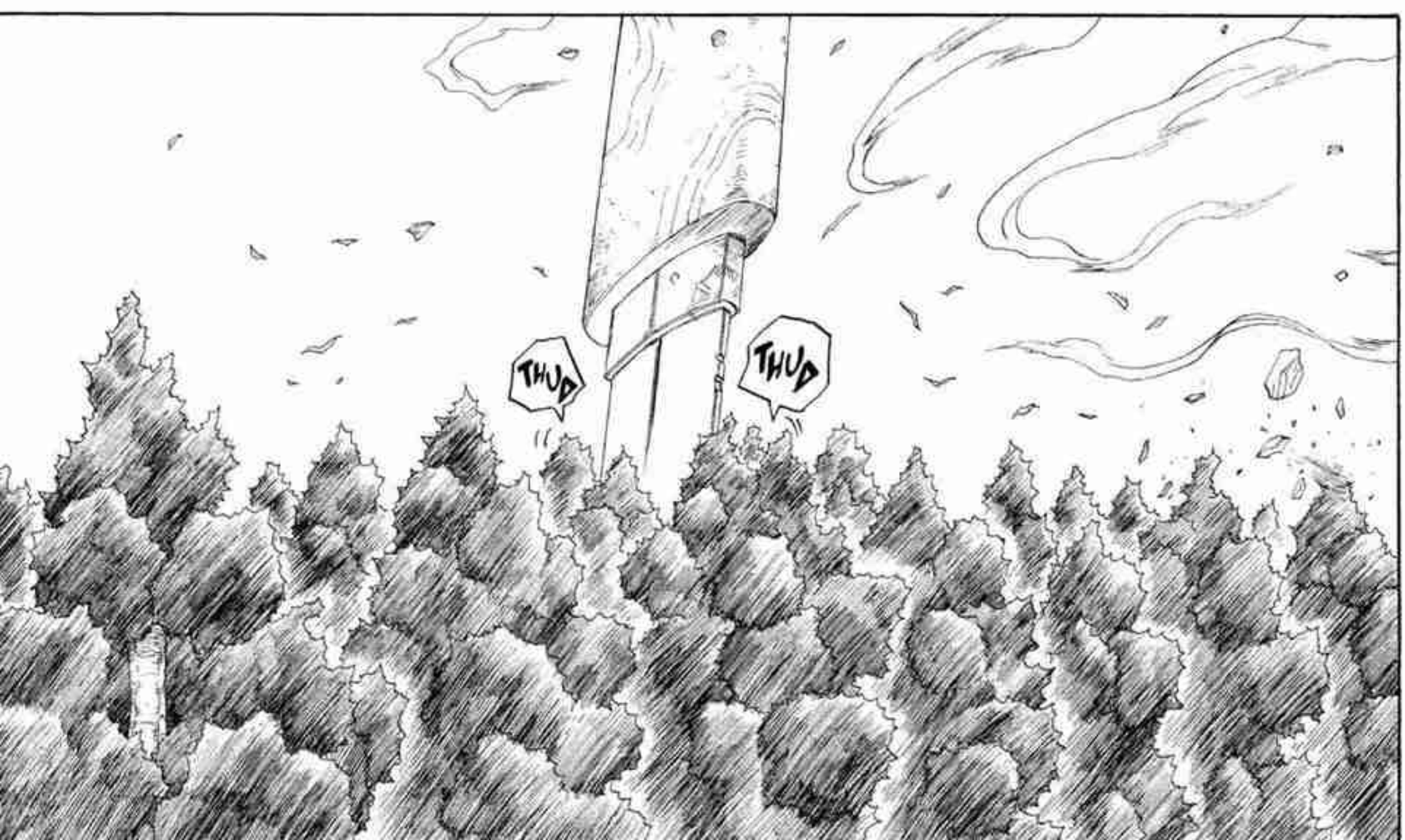
POP

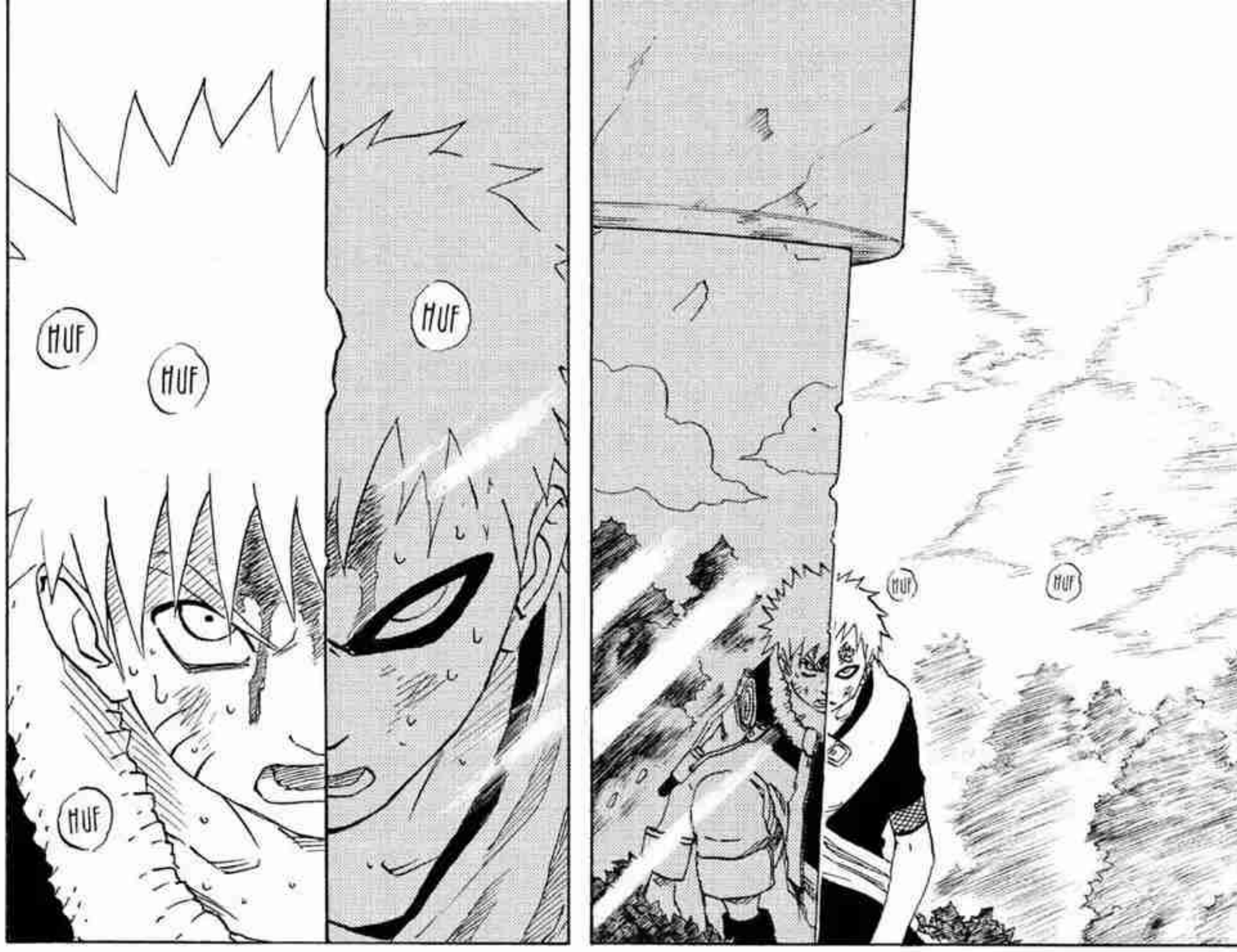
SHK...
I'M GETTING TO MY LIMIT AS WELL...
I REGRET NOT BEING ABLE TO STAY TO WATCH IT TO THE END, BUT...

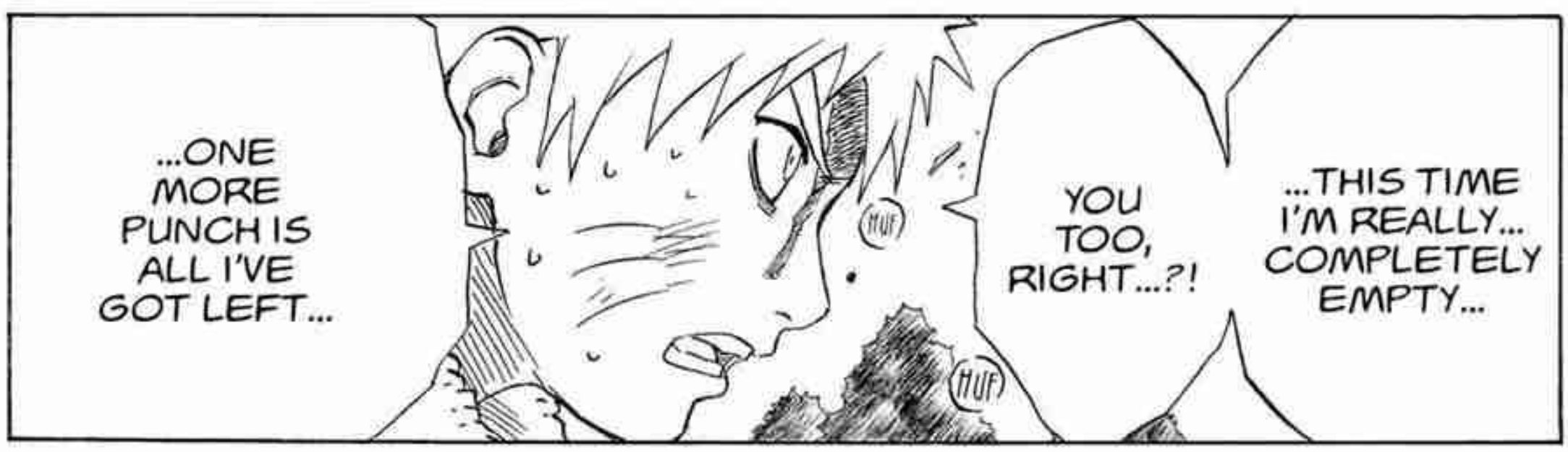
SURE THING, PA!
WE'RE HEADING HOME, GAMAKICHI!

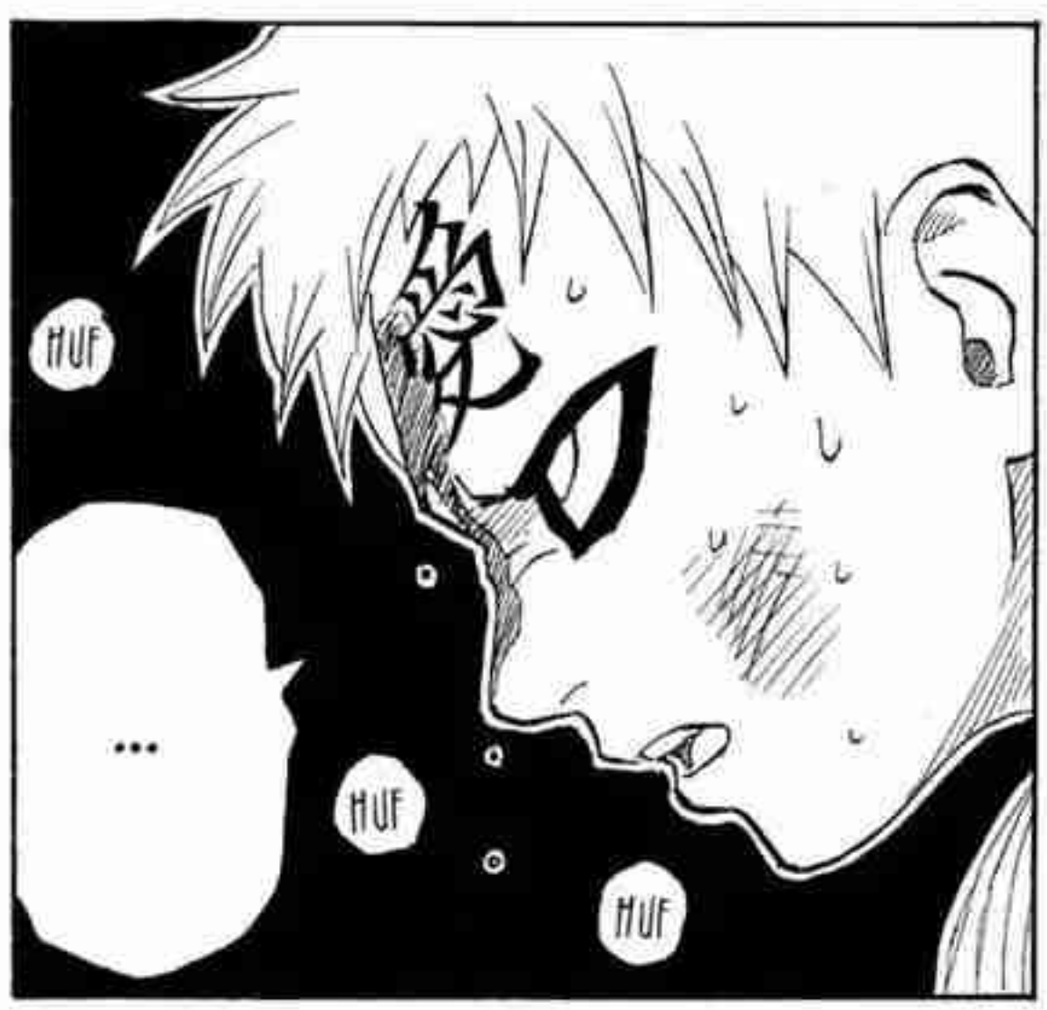
WHOA!

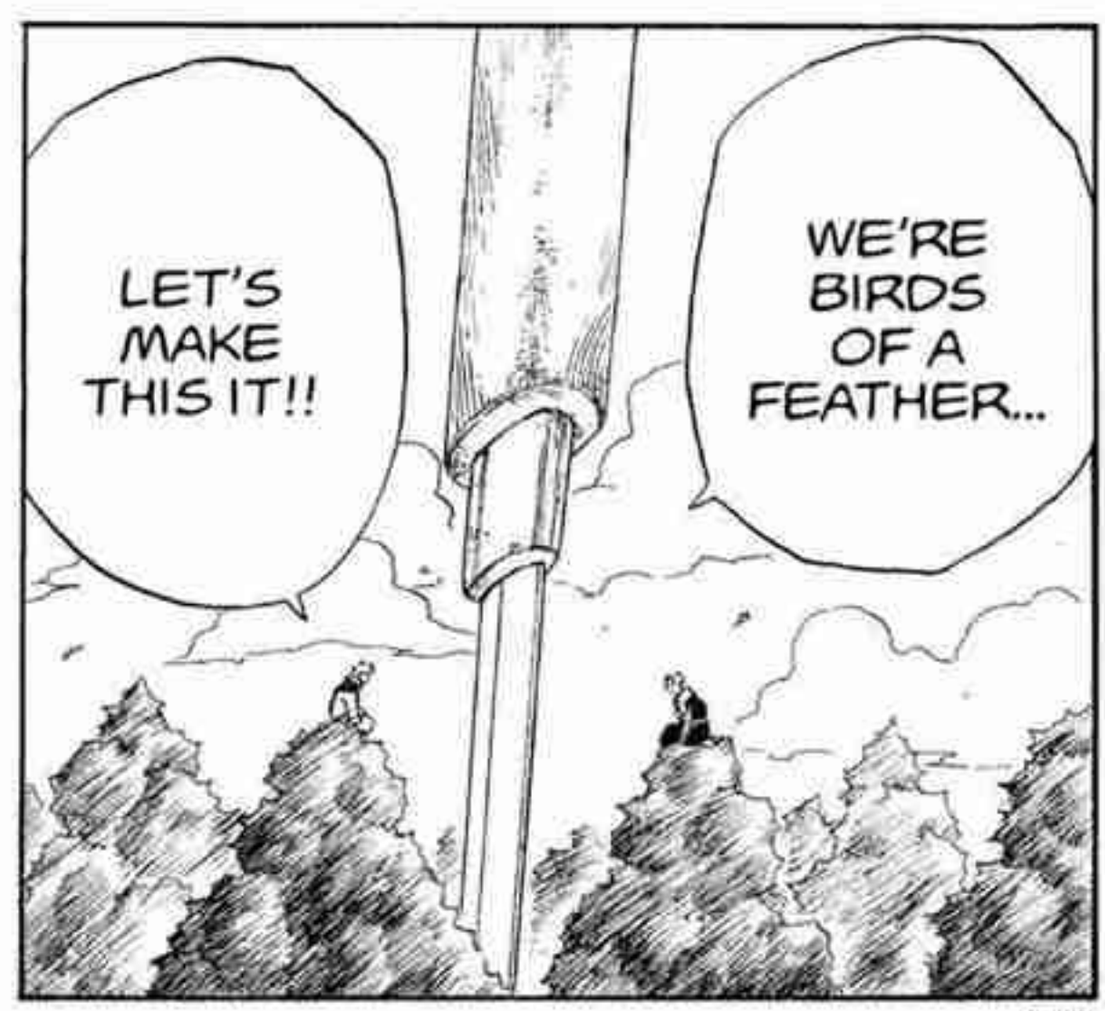
UGH!

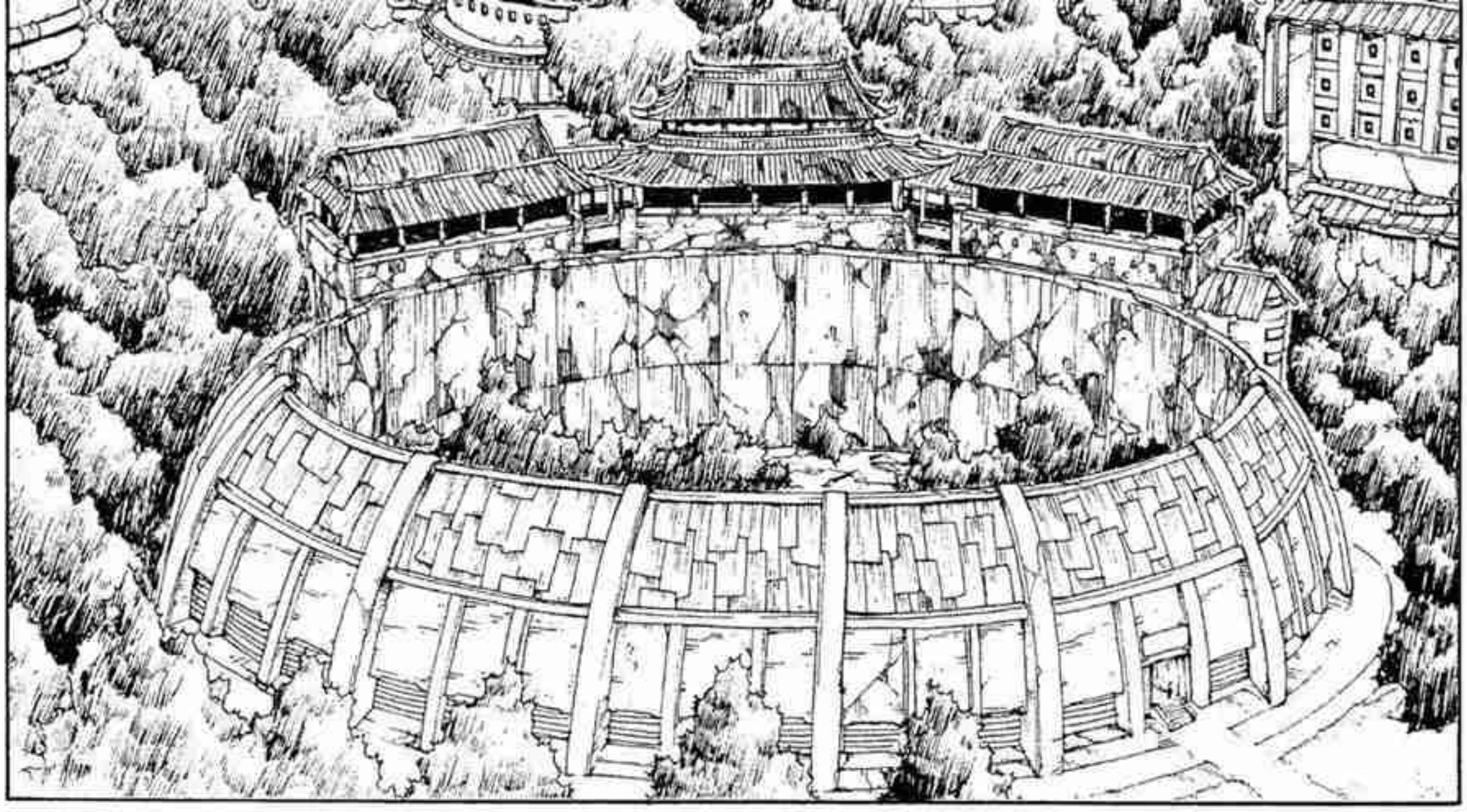

THUD
THUD


HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF


...ONE MORE PUNCH IS ALL I'VE GOT LEFT...
HUF
HUF
YOU TOO, RIGHT...?!
...THIS TIME I'M REALLY... COMPLETELY EMPTY...

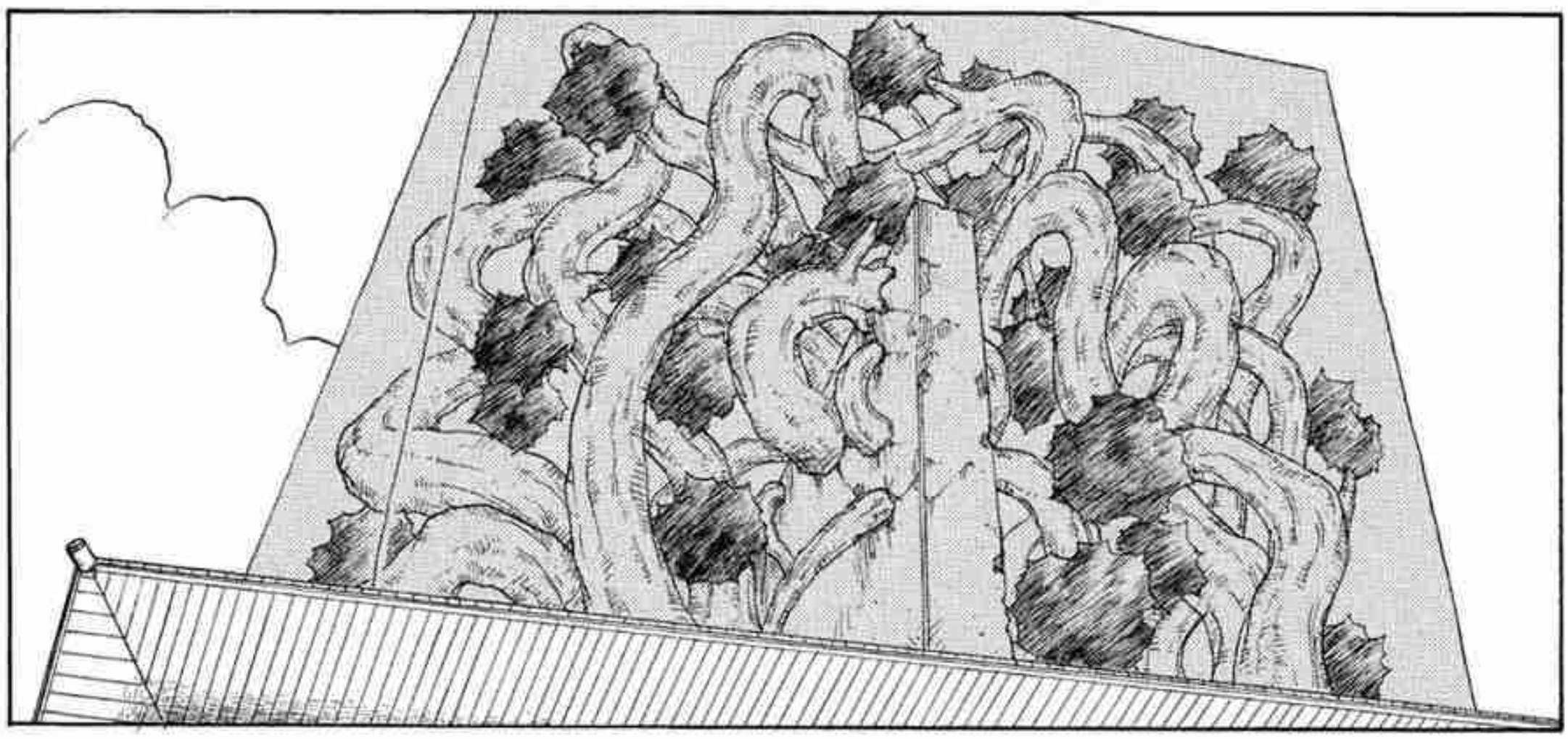

HUF
...
HUF
HUF


LET'S MAKE THIS IT!!
WE'RE BIRDS OF A FEATHER...

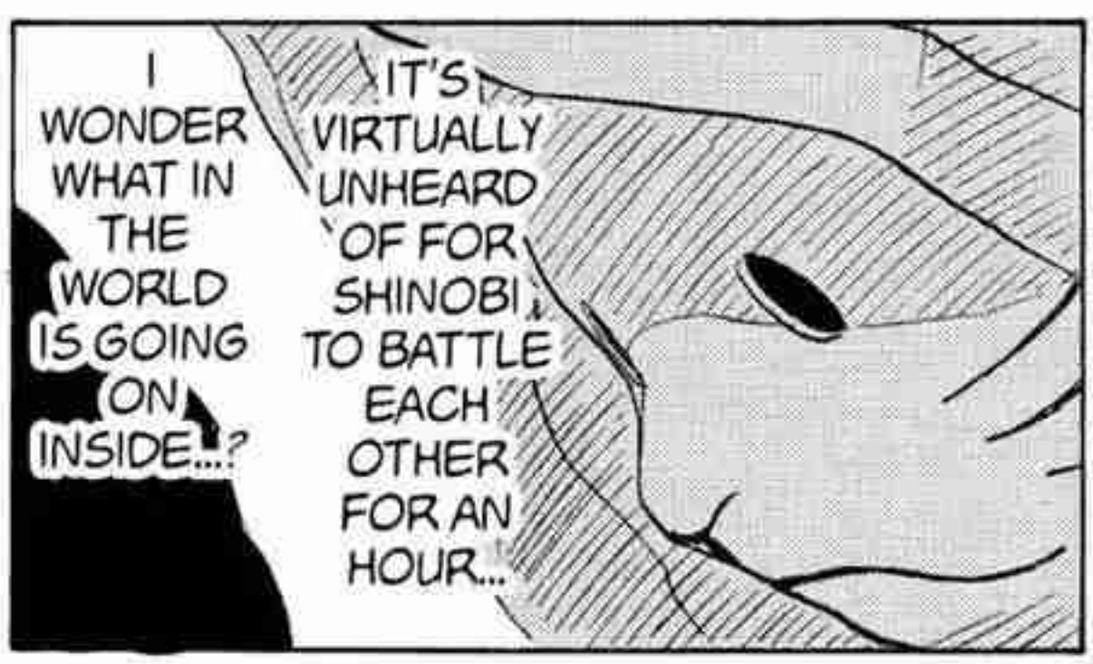


WELL... THINK ABOUT IT...
THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT WAR.

I'M SHOCKED THAT NOT JUST SOUND... BUT SO MANY SAND JÔNIN WOULD TRY TO INFILTRATE OUR VILLAGE...!

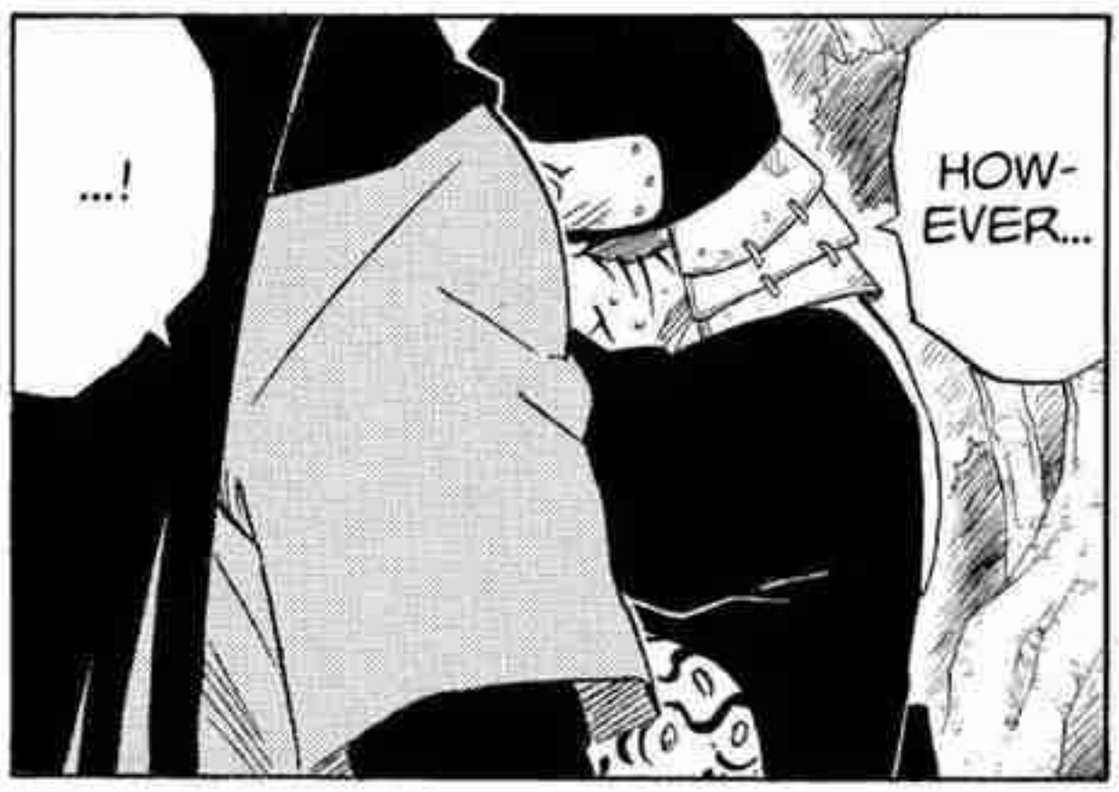


THIS FIGHT HAS BEEN GOING ON FOREVER...

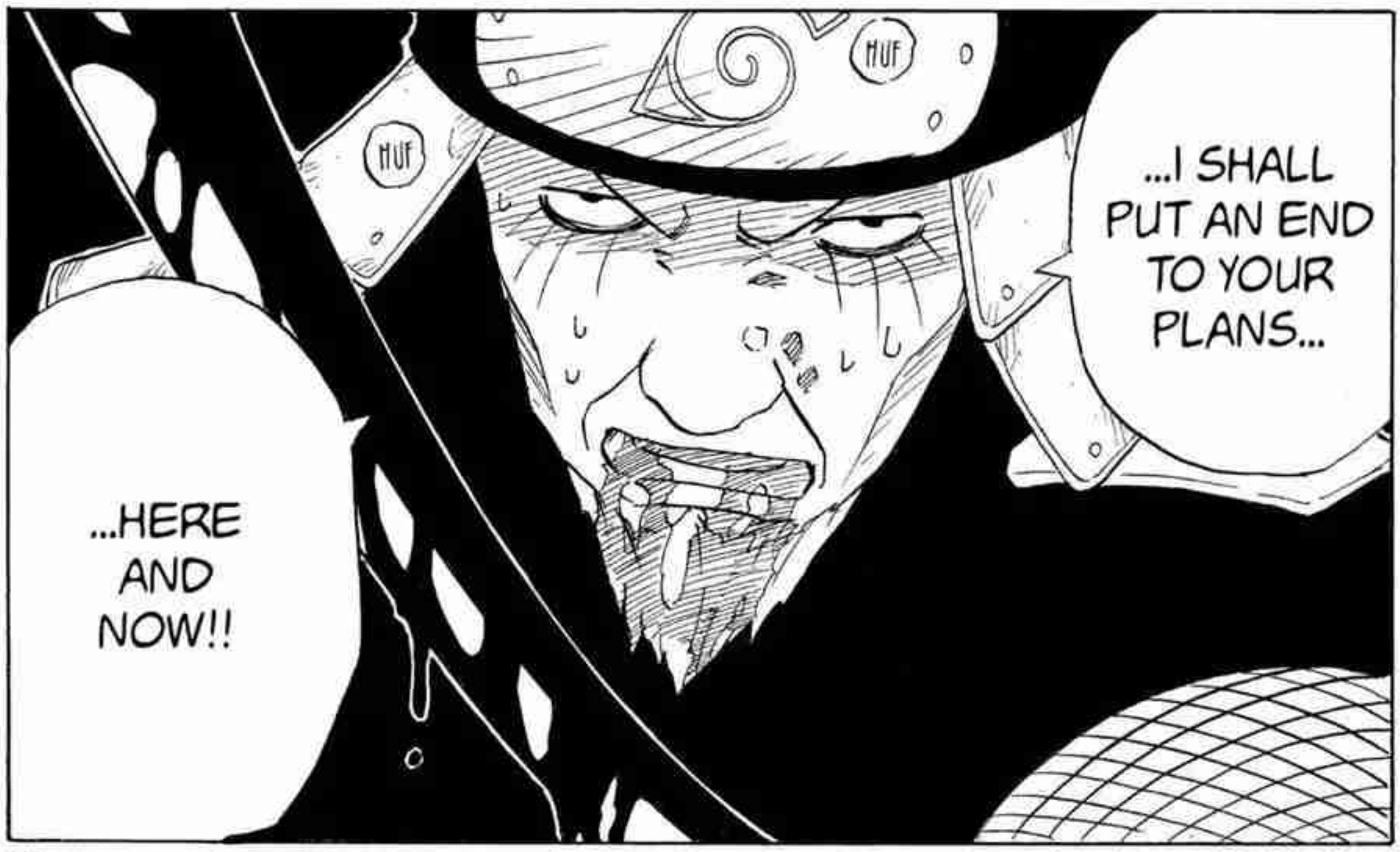

I WONDER WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON INSIDE...?
IT'S VIRTUALLY UNHEARD OF FOR SHINOBI TO BATTLE EACH OTHER FOR AN HOUR...

HUF
HUF
...
MASTER SARUTOBI!
THEN BY ALL MEANS, PLEASE DIE...

HUF
IT SEEMS...
...I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH STRENGTH LEFT TO DRAG OUT ALL OF YOUR SOUL.
HUF


...!
HOW-EVER...

PAK


HUF
HUF
...I SHALL PUT AN END TO YOUR PLANS...
...HERE AND NOW!!

THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 23

IN MY SECOND YEAR OF COLLEGE, I GOT SERIOUS AND DECIDED TO SUBMIT MANGA FOR REAL, TARGETING SHONEN MAGAZINES. "NOW! WHAT SHALL I DRAW..." I STARTED OFF IN HIGH SPIRITS, BUT THEN IMMEDIATELY RAN INTO A BLOCK. THE STORY I HAD THOUGHT UP HAD TOO MANY PLOT POINTS, AND I COULDN'T FIT EVERYTHING INTO THE PAGE LIMIT. EARLY ON IN ONE'S CAREER, ONE OFTEN BECOMES OVERENTHUSIASTIC AND GREEDY, TRYING TO SQUEEZE ALL OF ONE'S IDEAS INTO A SINGLE PIECE. I WAS LIKE THAT TOO. THE STORY OFTEN BECOMES CLUNKY AND UNWIELDY, AND THERE ARE SO MANY CHARACTERS THAT NO ONE CHARACTER ENDS UP STANDING OUT AS THE MAIN CHARACTER.

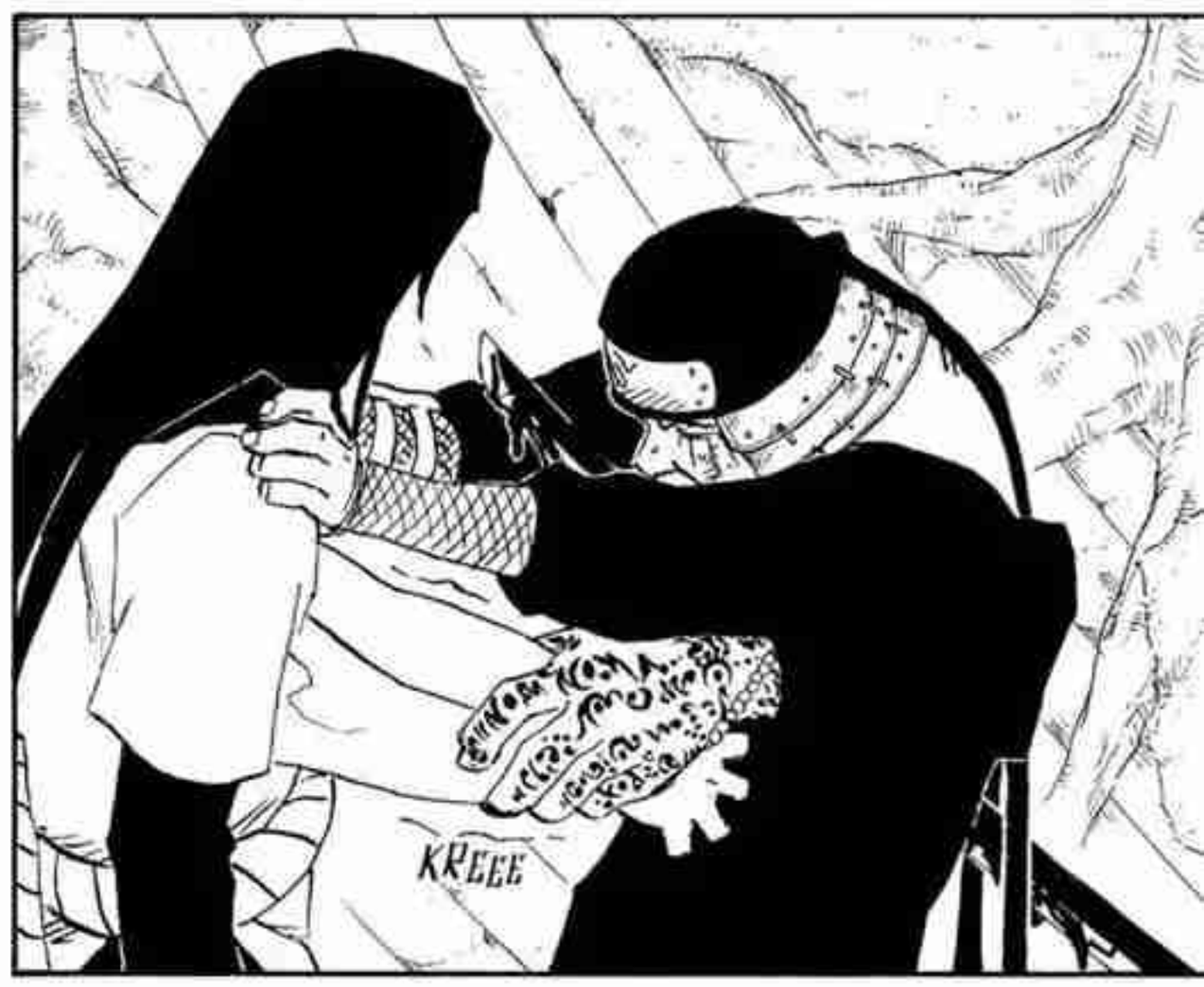
THUS! I USED THE PAGE LIMIT AS MY CLEAR-CUT SOLUTION. I SHAVED OFF WHATEVER PLOT POINTS I FELT WERE EXTRANEOUS, AND GOT RID OF A BUNCH OF CHARACTERS. WHEN I FINALLY FELT I COULD TELL THE STORY WITHIN THE PAGE LIMIT, I SAT DOWN AND STARTED DRAWING IN EARNEST. ...HOWEVER, IT'S NOT LIKE THE STORY COULD STAY COMPLETELY THE SAME, SO A **FEW MINOR DIFFICULTIES** AROSE. ...BUT... THEY WEREN'T HUGE DIFFICULTIES! JUST THAT PLOT-WISE, I HAD ORIGINALLY WANTED TO TELL THE TALE OF A **NATIONAL** DILEMMA STARRING A MAIN CHARACTER POSSESSING NATIONAL POWER, WITH GRAND SPECTACLE (!). BUT IN THE END, IT WAS A SMALL-SCALE STORY INVOLVING "SMALL-TOWN FOLK" THAT I SOMEHOW MANAGED TO WORK UP... IT'S LIKE THE FEW MINOR DIFFICULTIES THAT WOULD CROP UP IF ONE FORGED AHEAD AND FILMED A SCI-FI MOVIE EVEN KNOWING ONE WOULDN'T BE GIVEN ANYTHING NEAR AN ADEQUATE BUDGET. THAT'S WHAT'S KNOWN AS "A NEWCOMER'S COARSENESS SHOWING THROUGH HIS INABILITY TO SNUGLY CONTAIN THINGS"!

...IN ANY CASE! WHAT I AIMED FOR WAS *WEEKLY SHONEN JUMP*'S HOP☆STEP AWARD, WITH ITS PRIZE MONEY OF 500 THOUSAND YEN [ROUGHLY $5000] (TAKE-HOME)... OR RATHER... I WON!!!

THE TITLE OF THAT MANGA WAS "KARAKURI" [MECHANISM]. "KARAKURI" IS A POPULAR NAME FOR A SUPER-STRENGTH ANDROID OR ROBOT. I HAD ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT JAPANESE NAMING SCHEMES WERE COOL, SO I DECIDED I WOULDN'T USE ANY WEIRD WESTERN TERMS OR NAMES. THAT'S WHY I WENT WITH THE JAPANESE "KARAKURI" INSTEAD OF "CYBORG"! AND IT TURNS OUT THAT THIS STANDALONE STORY, "KARAKURI," WOULD GREATLY CHANGE MY DESTINY. BUT OF THAT, THE YOUNG KISHIMOTO WAS STILL UNAWARE.

Number 137:

SKRIIP


KREEE

PAK
UGH...
...UNDER THESE CIRCUM-STANCES...

SHF

YOU TALK LIKE AN OLD FOOL!
YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP ME?

LET ME GO!
GRIND GRIND

UGH... MY ARMS ARE STILL TRAPPED... ...I CAN'T CAST ANY JUTSU...

UGH... I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO DESTROY THIS VILLAGE...!

I CANNOT BE STOPPED!

YOU WILL DIE HERE!!

UGGH...

HUF

HUF

LOOK AROUND YOU...!

UGH...!

DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT YOU IN YOUR DECREPIT STATE HAVE THE POWER TO SAVE THIS VILLAGE AS THE THIRD HOKAGE?

CHK CHK

OPERATION DESTROY KONOHA SHALL BE FULFILLED!

MUF

MUF

MUF

...SUNAGAKURE SHINOBI HAVE INVADED THIS VILLAGE AS WELL, YOU KNOW.

IN ADDITION TO MY FOLLOW-ERS...

MUF

...WILL BE ANNIHILATED, WOMEN AND CHILDREN INCLUDED...

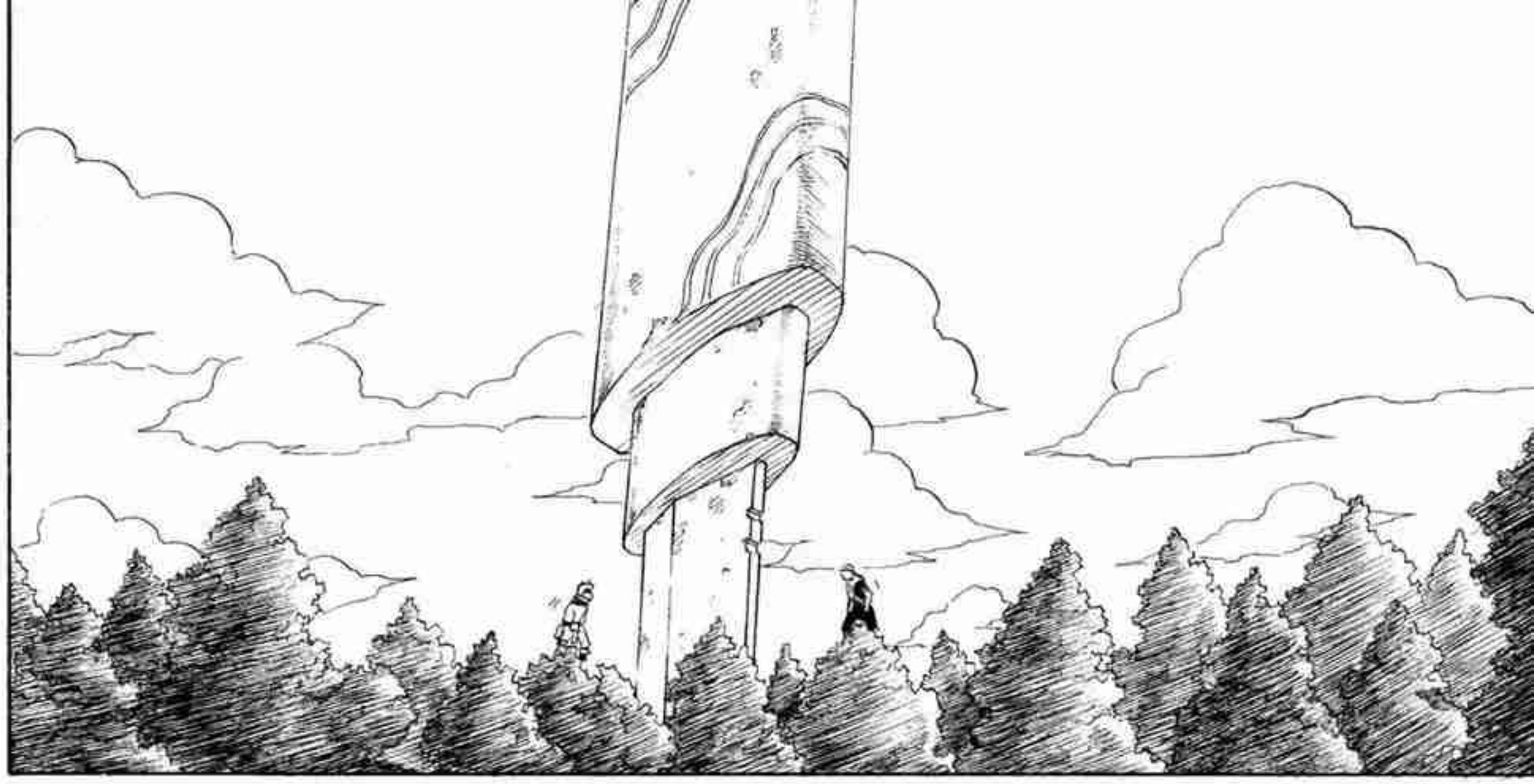
MUF

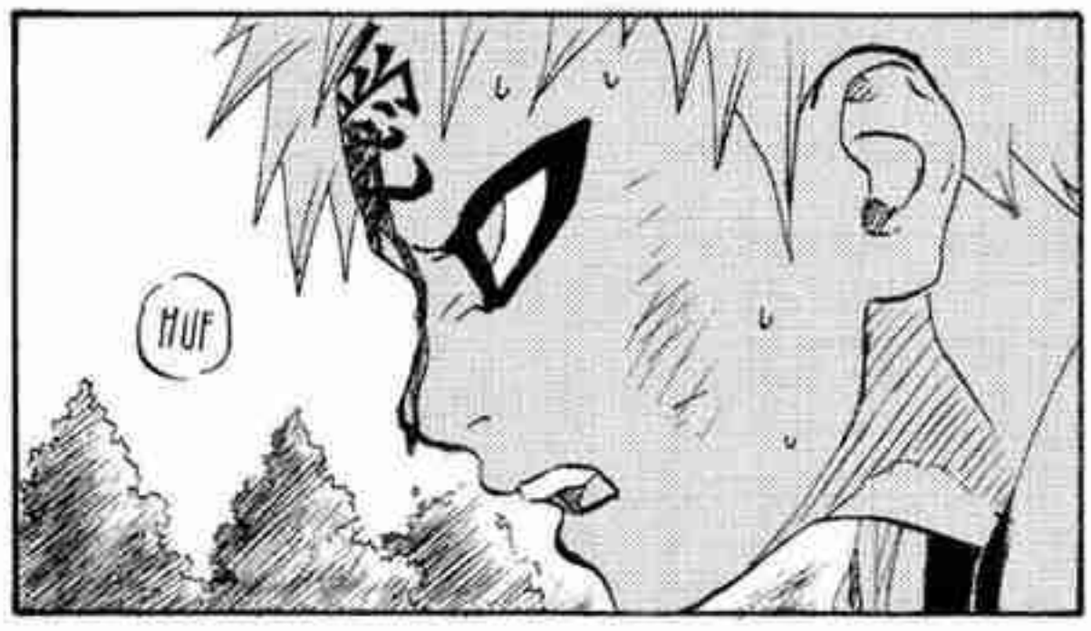
ALL KONOHA SHINOBI...

...

DON'T UNDERESTI-MATE THE SHINOBI OF THIS VILLAGE...

YOU REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU, OROCHIMARU.



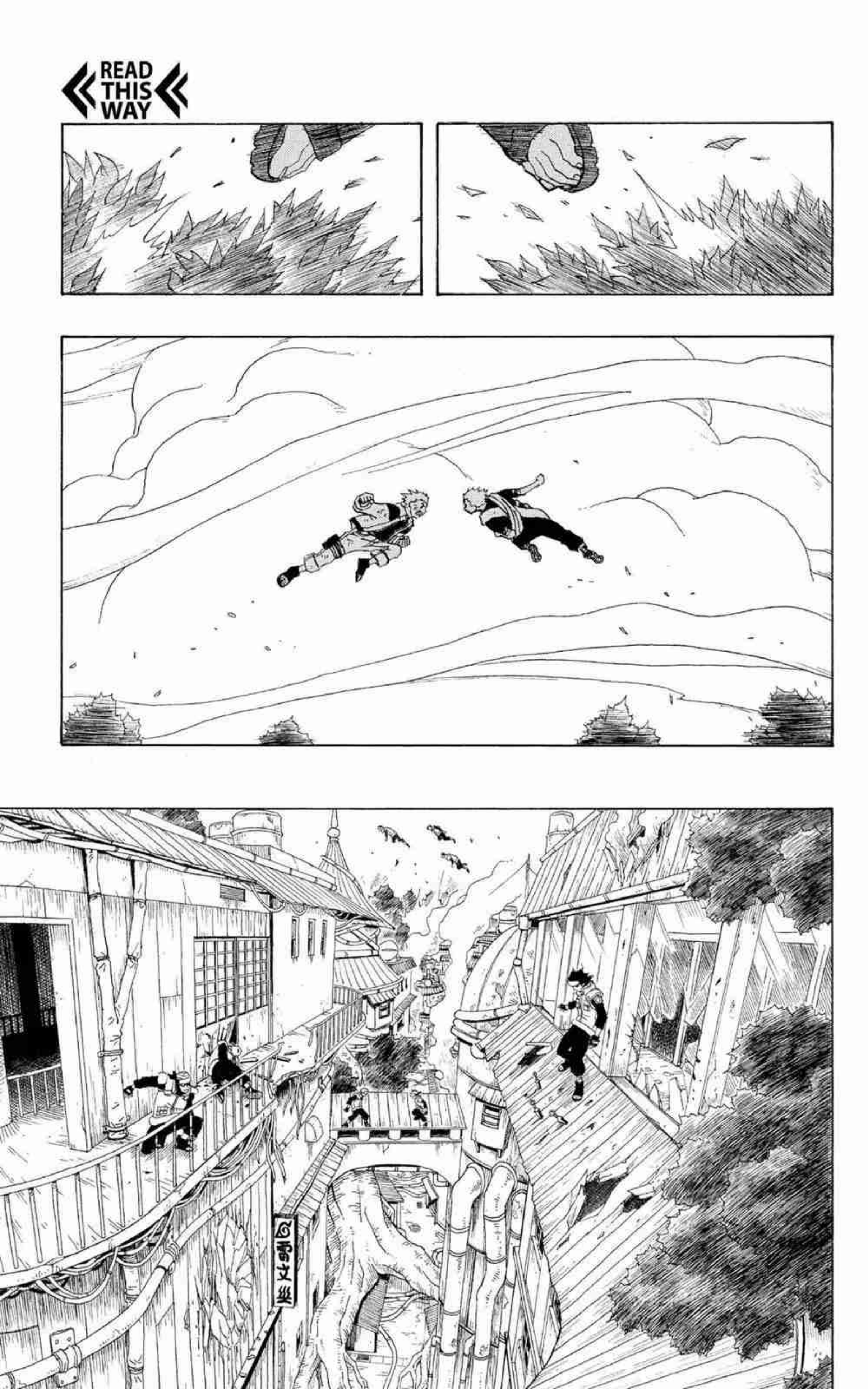

HUF

HUF
HUF

FUMP

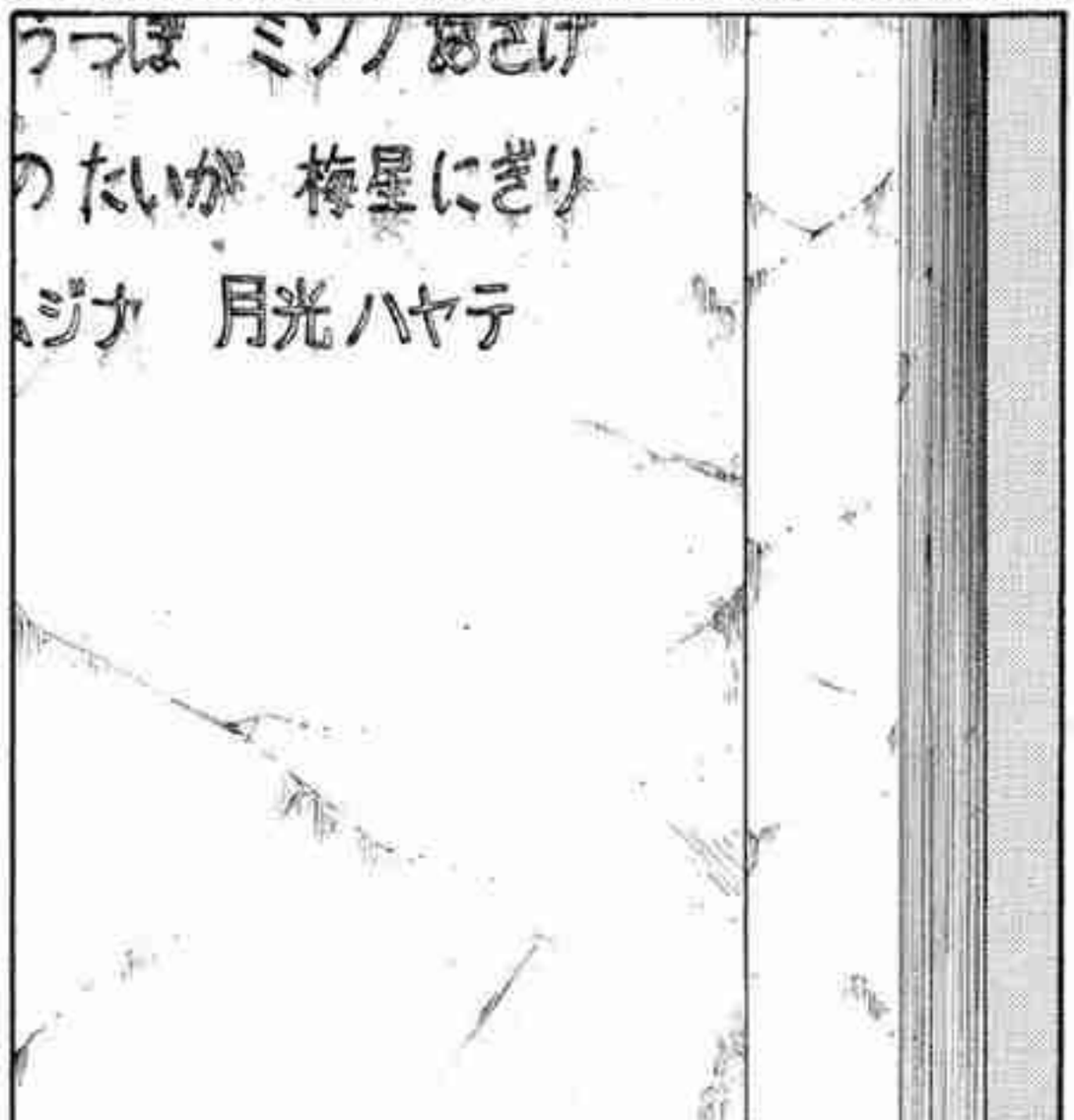
FUMP

BOOF


READ THIS WAY

I SWEAR TO AVENGE YOU.

(*Gravestone: the names of Konoha's fallen heroes.)



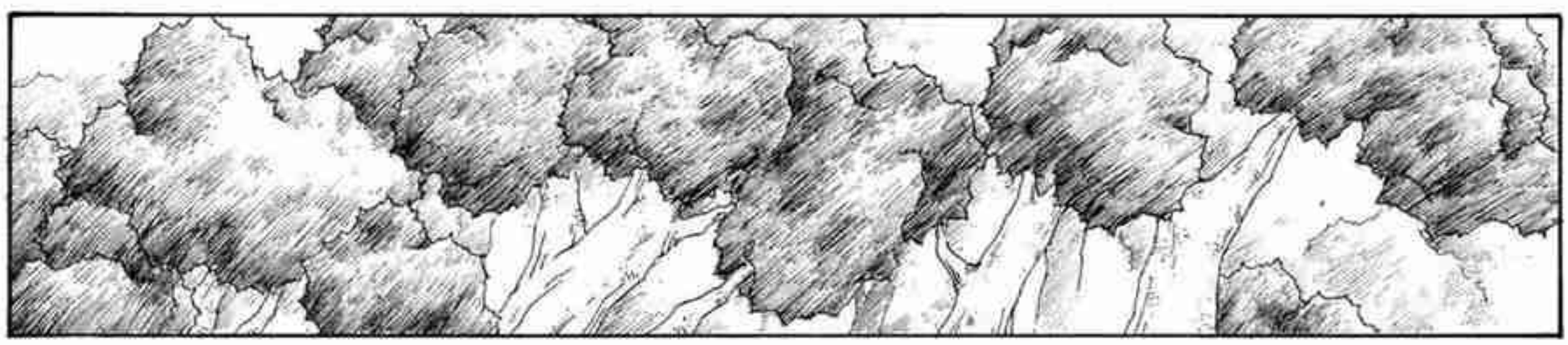
AAARGH!

THUDDD

TWITCH
TWITCH
QUIVER QUIVER

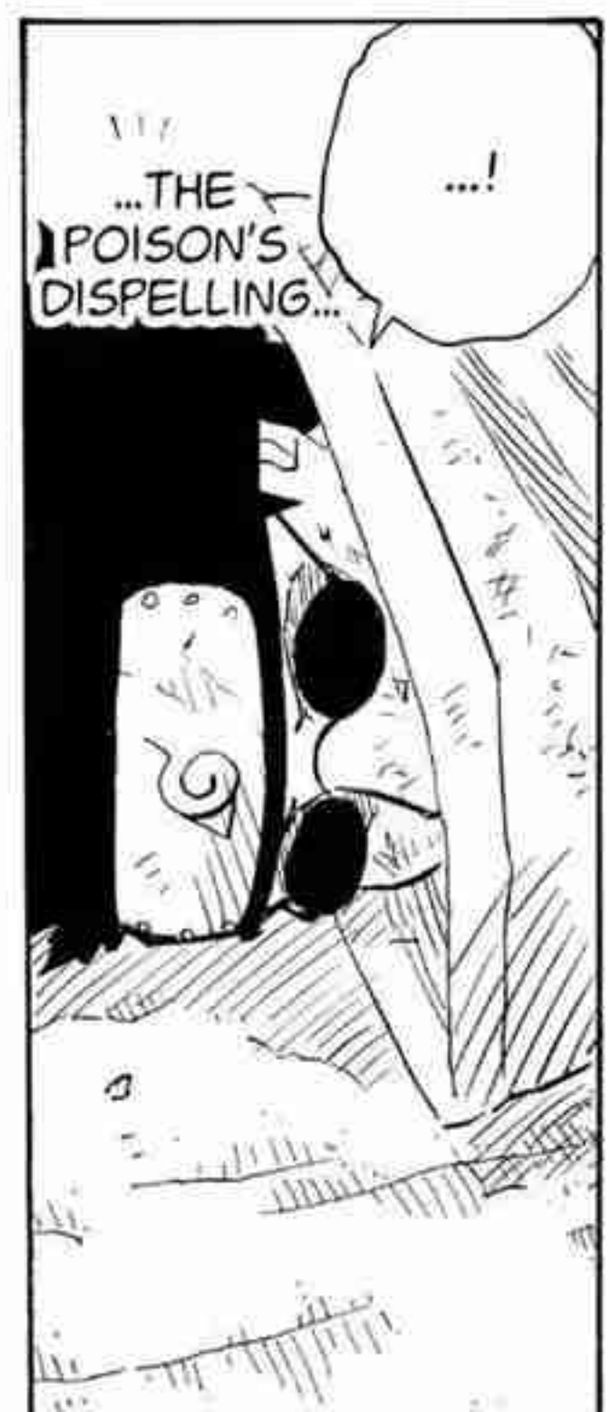
AAARGH!!
THE INO-SHIKA-CHO TRIO REUNITED!
IT SURE BRINGS BACK MEMO-RIES!
CLOMP

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
HEY... STOP IT!!
ZOOM
MY BODY'S MOVING ON ITS OWN...!!

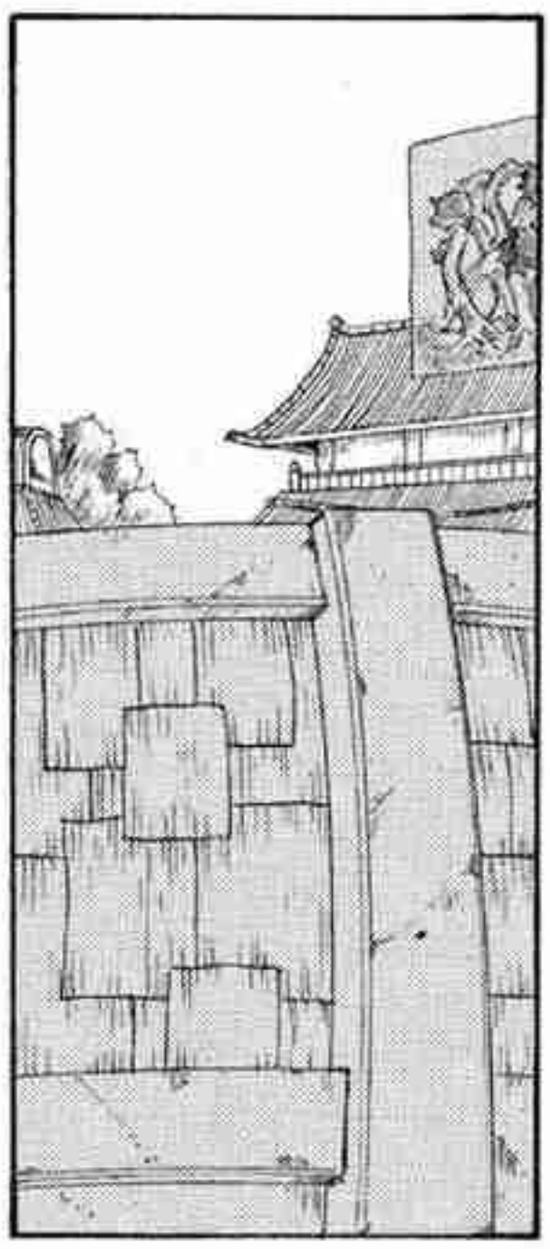


FATHER...

DON'T MOVE, SHINO.
I'VE SENT PARASITIC BEETLES IN... THEY'RE DRAWING OUT THE POISON.


...THE POISON'S DISPELLING...
...!

...!



ARF!
LET'S GO, KURO-MARU!

HUF
HUF
HUF

...WILL ALL FIGHT WITH EVERY-THING THEY'VE GOT!
THE SHINOBI OF KONOHA, IN ORDER TO DEFEND THEIR VILLAGE...
HUF
HUF

HUF
HUF
...!

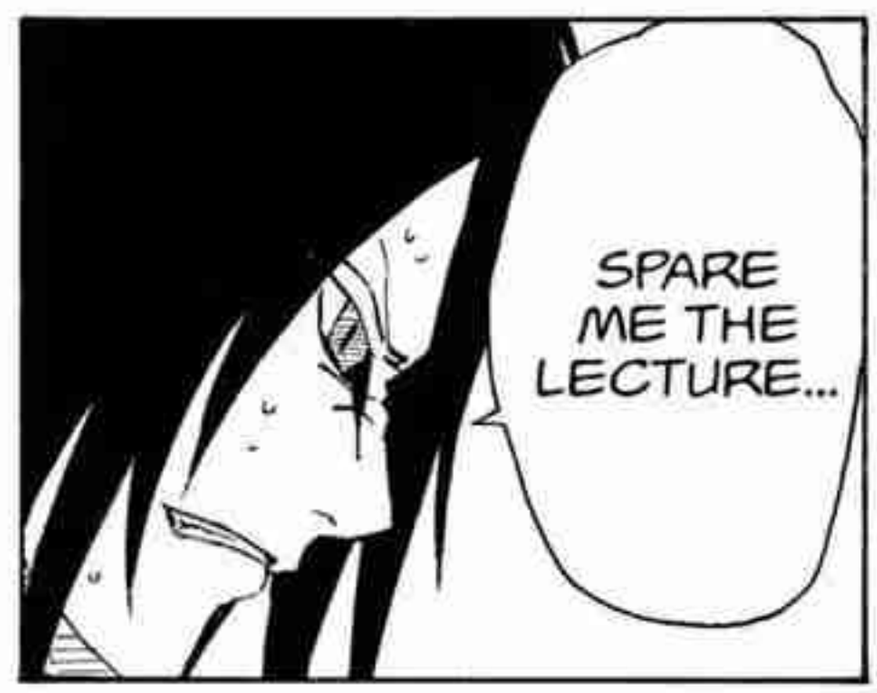
...ARISES NOT FROM HONED NINJUTSU.
IN THIS WORLD, TRUE STRENGTH...

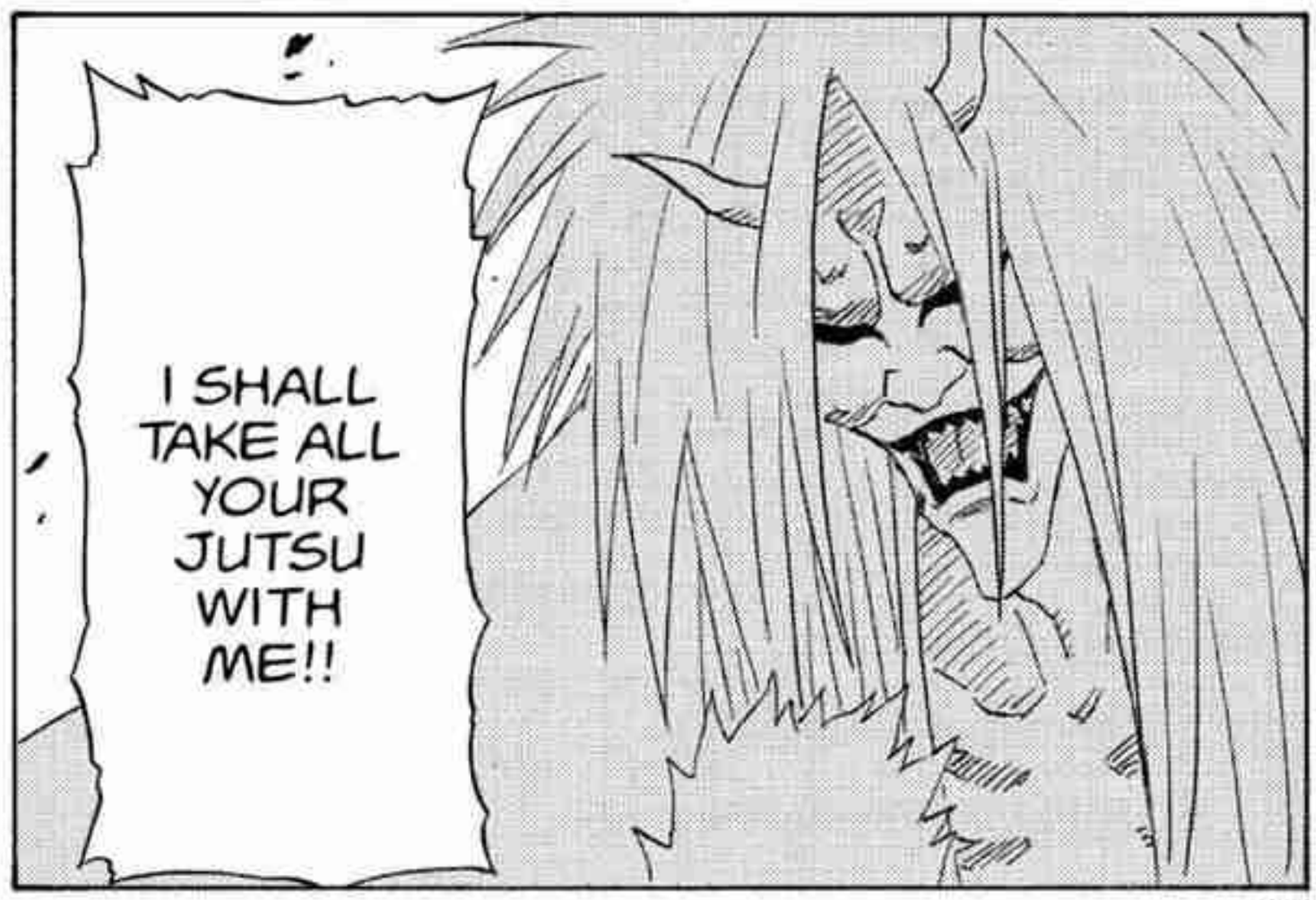
...

...
I THOUGHT I HAD TAUGHT YOU THIS, ONCE...

...WHEN HE OR SHE IS DEFENDING THOSE PRECIOUS TO HIM OR HER...

I TOLD YOU THAT A SHINOBI'S TRUE STRENGTH EMERGES ...

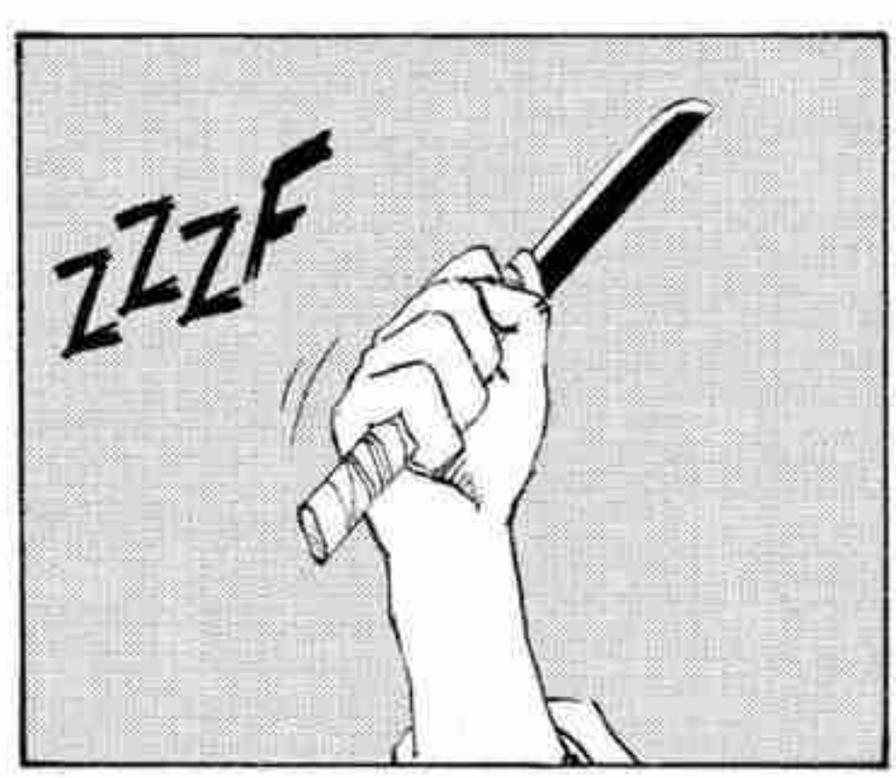




RRRROAR!!

SKRIIIP

SHOOF

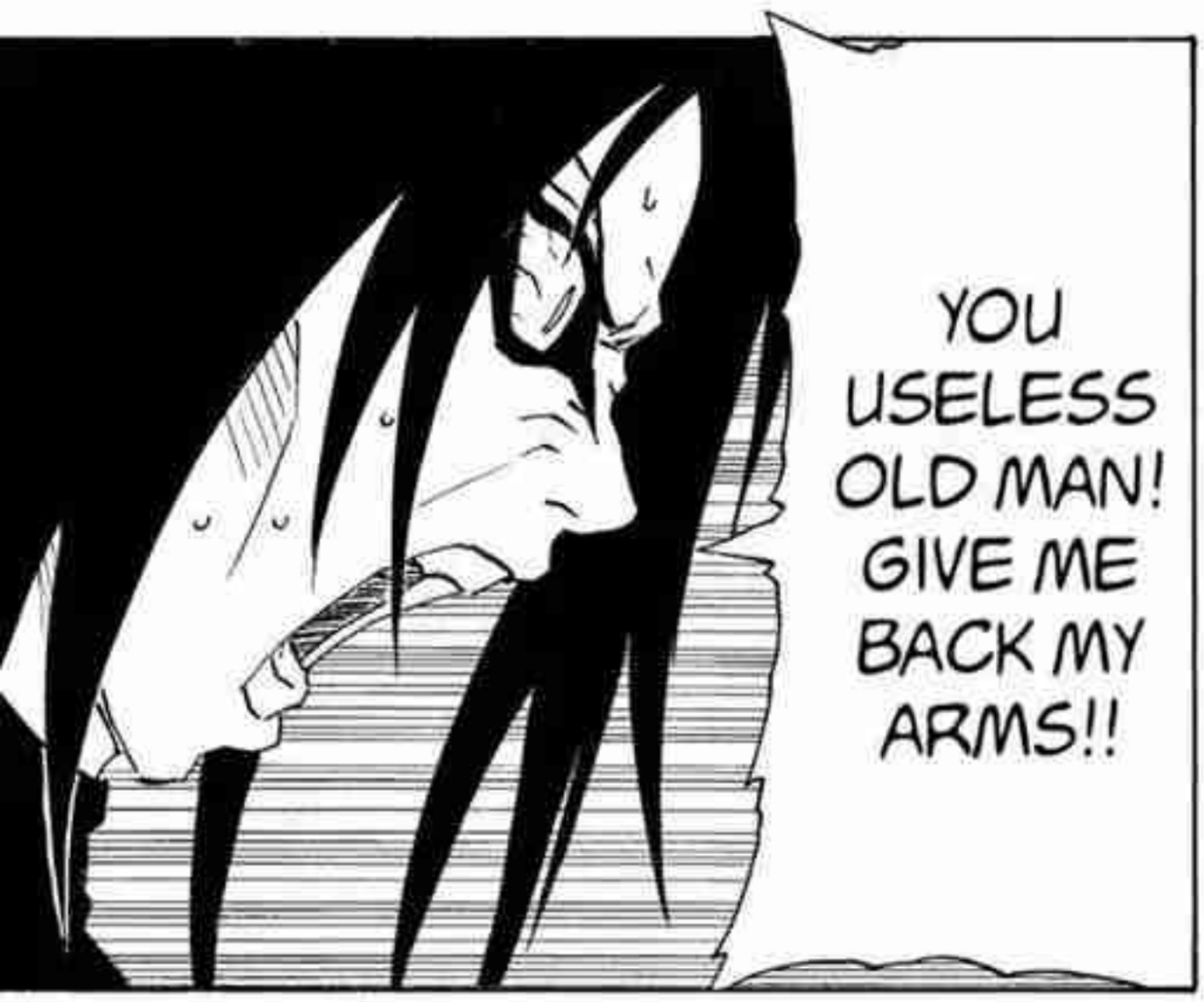


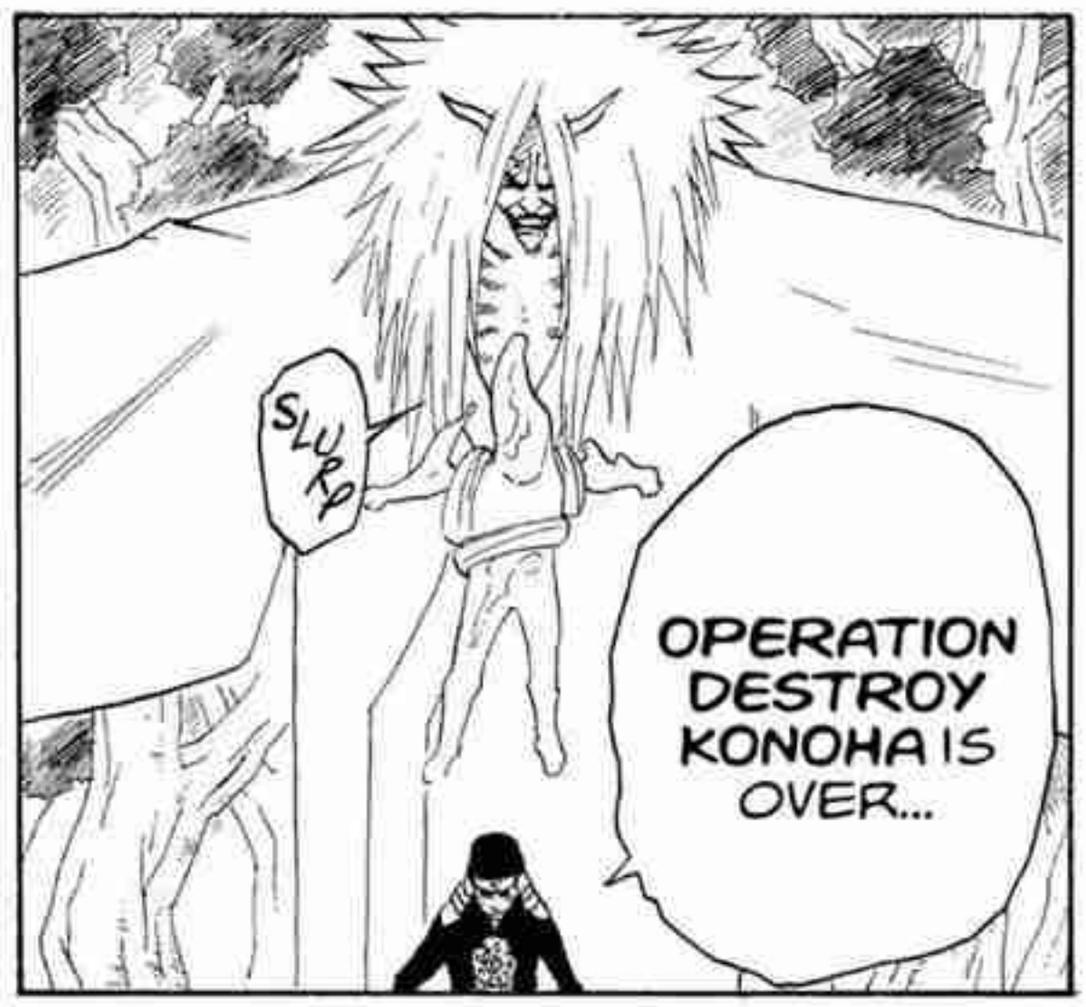
AND THUS, YOU CAN NO LONGER WEAVE SIGNS...
NOW, YOU CAN NO LONGER USE EITHER ARM...
HUF
HUF
HUF

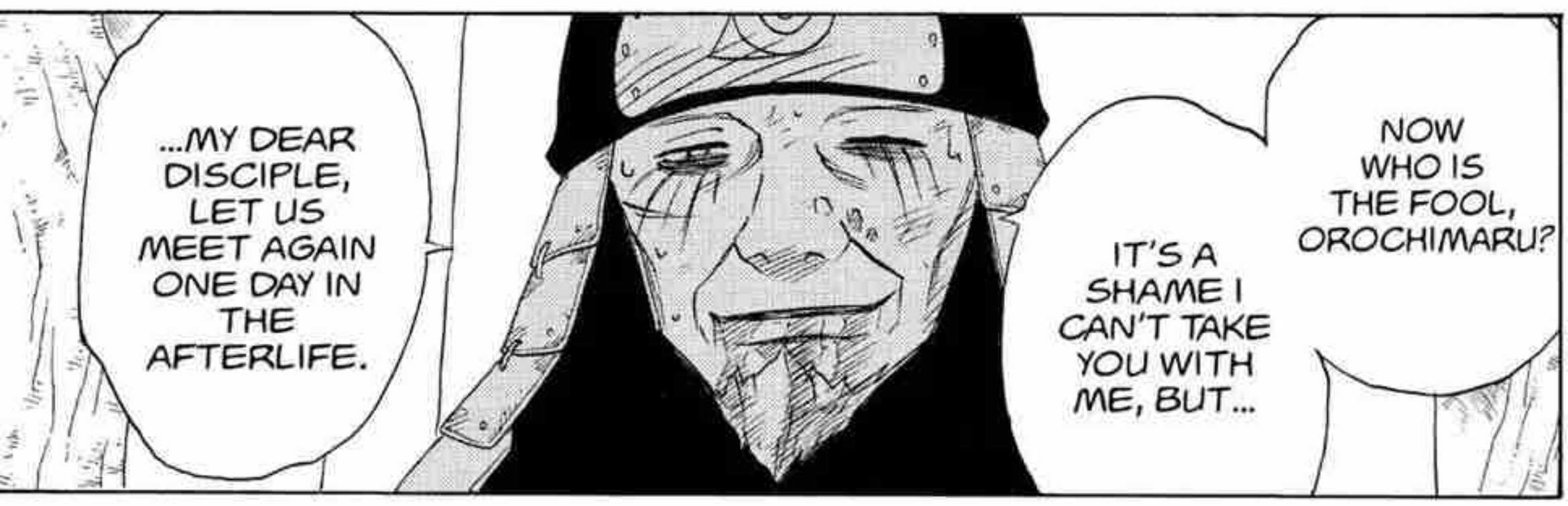
MY ARMS, THEY'RE PARALYZED...
UGH!

HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
SWAY
SWING

YOU HAVE NO NINJUTSU LEFT TO USE.
SHLD

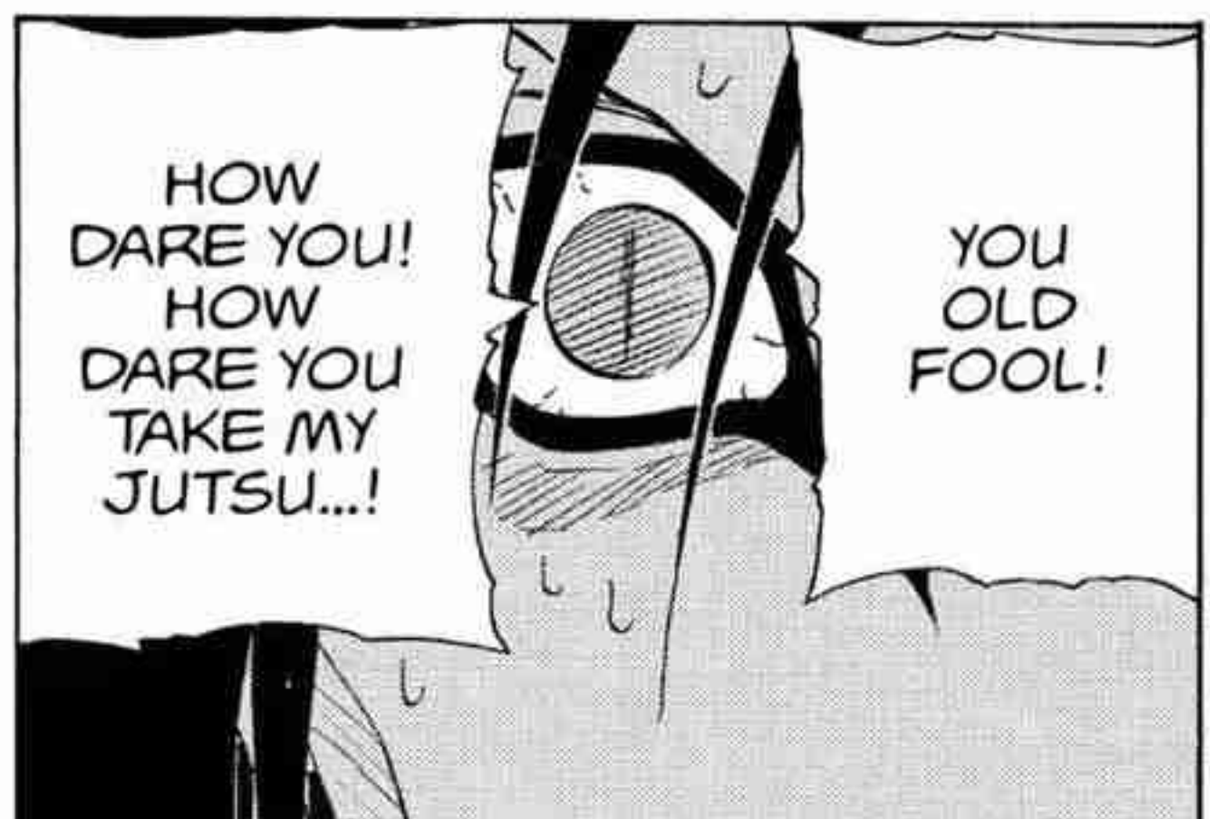

YOU USELESS OLD MAN! GIVE ME BACK MY ARMS!!


SLURP
OPERATION DESTROY KONOHA IS OVER...


...MY DEAR DISCIPLE, LET US MEET AGAIN ONE DAY IN THE AFTERLIFE.
IT'S A SHAME I CAN'T TAKE YOU WITH ME, BUT...
NOW WHO IS THE FOOL, OROCHIMARU?

SLURP

WHERE TREE LEAVES DANCE... ONE SHALL FIND FLAMES...


HOW DARE YOU! HOW DARE YOU TAKE MY JUTSU...!
YOU OLD FOOL!

THE FIRE'S SHADOW WILL ILLUMINATE THE VILLAGE...

...AND ONCE AGAIN TREE LEAVES SHALL BUD ANEW.

Number 138:

Operation Destroy Konoha, Terminated!!

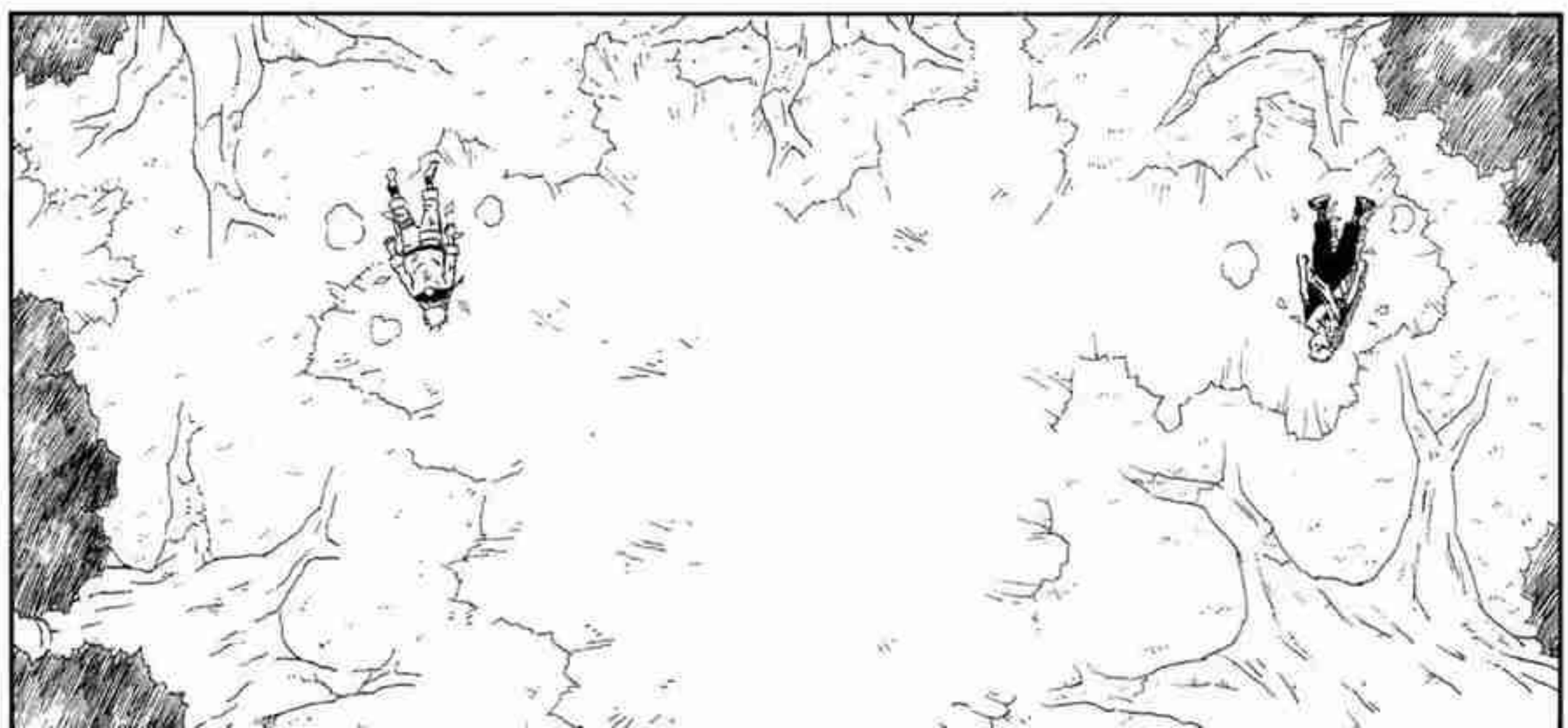
CRASH
CRASH
SHAAA

WHOOSH

THUD
THUD

(HUF)

WH...
WHY...
(HUF)
(HUF)
(HUF)

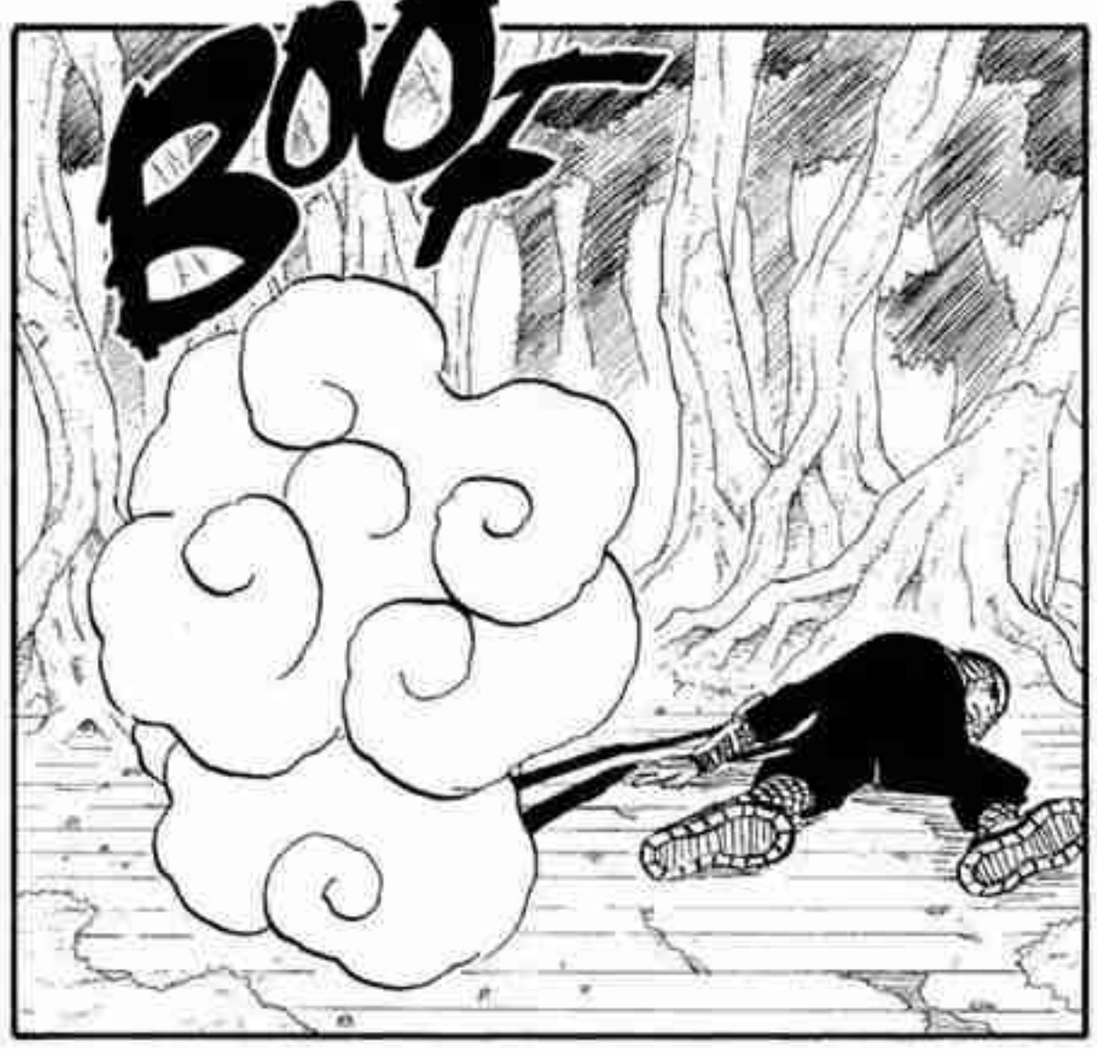


READ THIS WAY
SWAY
...!!
...Y...

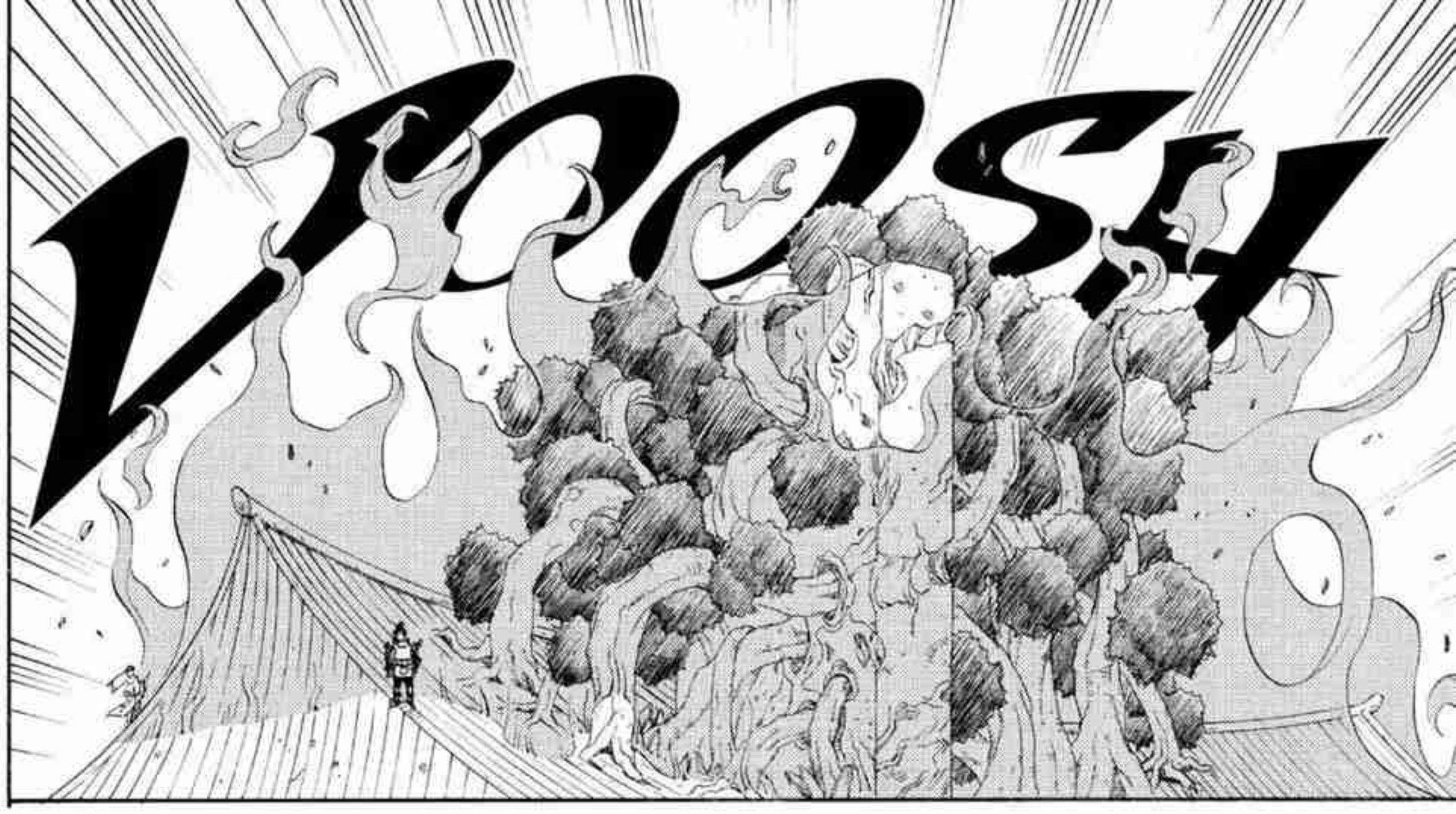
CRASH

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!

CRAZY OLD MAN!!



LORD OROCHI-MARU!!
AAARGH!!
MY ARMS FEEL LIKE THEY'RE ON FIRE...
YOU MAY TAKE DOWN THE SHIELD...
WE'RE GOING HOME...
UGGH... WE'RE DONE FOR NOW...
YES, SIR!


WOOSH

ZOOM
LET'S GO!!
ZOOM
ZOOM

!
!

...
!

YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY!!

ZOOM
SPROO

FWIP

NINJA ART!

SPUKK

KUMOSHIBARI! SPIDER WEB NET!!

!

!

STICKY THREADS INFUSED WITH CHAKRA...!

CHAK

UGH!!

...WE'LL ONLY GET SNARED IN THE ENEMY'S TRAPS.
LET'S NOT BE HASTY. IF WE RUSH IN...

SMACK
KAKASHI! THEY'RE ON THE MOVE.
NO, WAIT, GUY!
SHOULD WE CHASE AFTER THEM?!

BUT WHETHER THERE ARE TRAPS WAITING OR NOT, I CAN'T LET ENEMIES GET AWAY... IT'S JUST MY NATURE AS A KONOHA SHINOBI.
I'M WELL AWARE OF THAT.

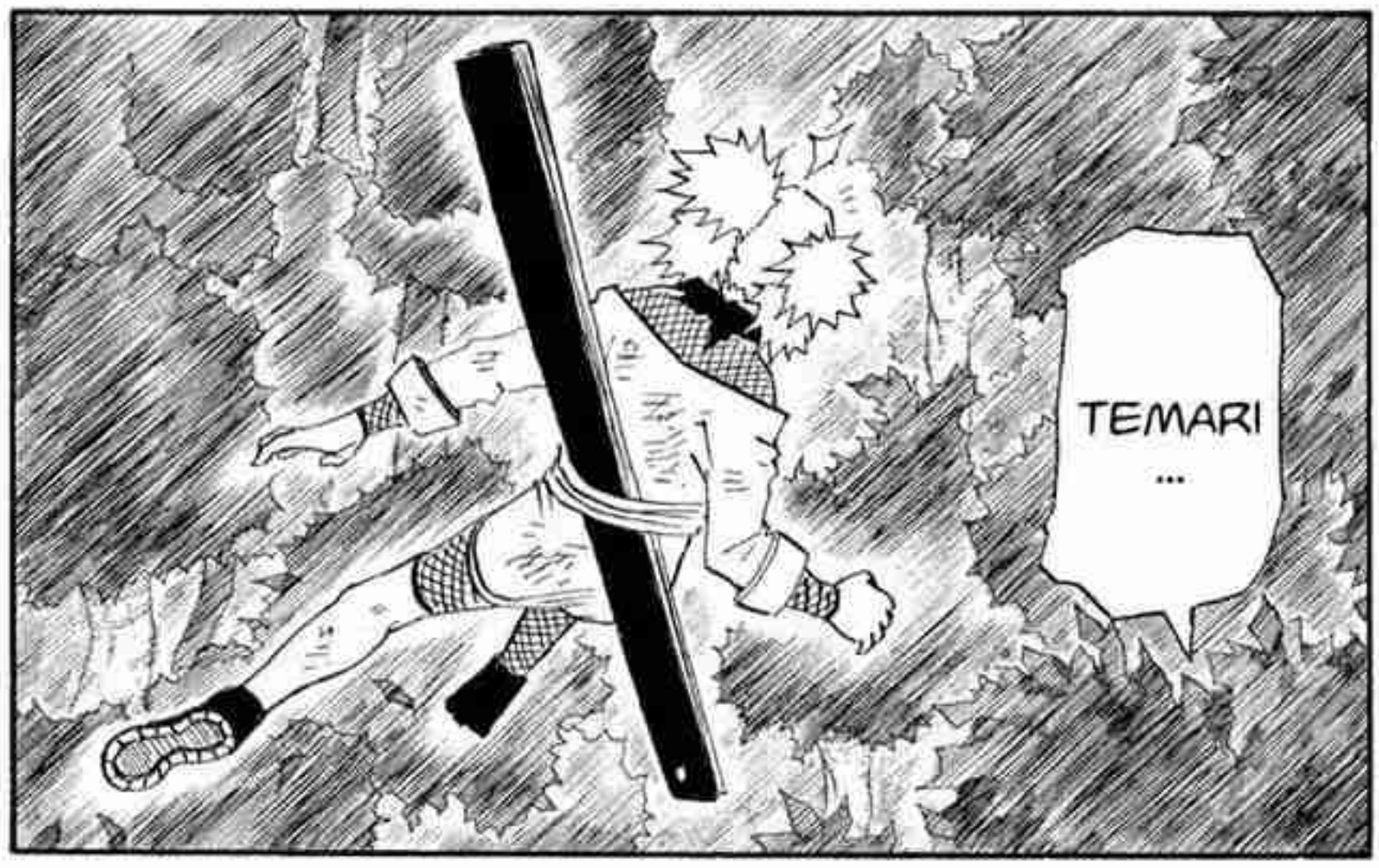
SO YOU KNEW...

KABUTO ...
ALL YOU ENDED UP DOING WAS WATCHING...
...SO...

CLMP

READ THIS WAY
RUNNING AWAY FROM ME AGAIN?
I NO LONGER WISH TO SHOW YOU MY JUTSU SO YOU CAN JUST COPY IT.
FOR NOW, YES...
I THINK WE SHOULD RETREAT ...
SO WHAT'S THE PLAN?
HEY...
...
ALTHOUGH... IT DOES SEEM LIKE YOU HAVEN'T MASTERED THAT EYE AS COMPLETELY AS A MEMBER OF THE UCHIHA CLAN COULD HAVE...
WELL THEN.
BOOF

...


TEMARI
...

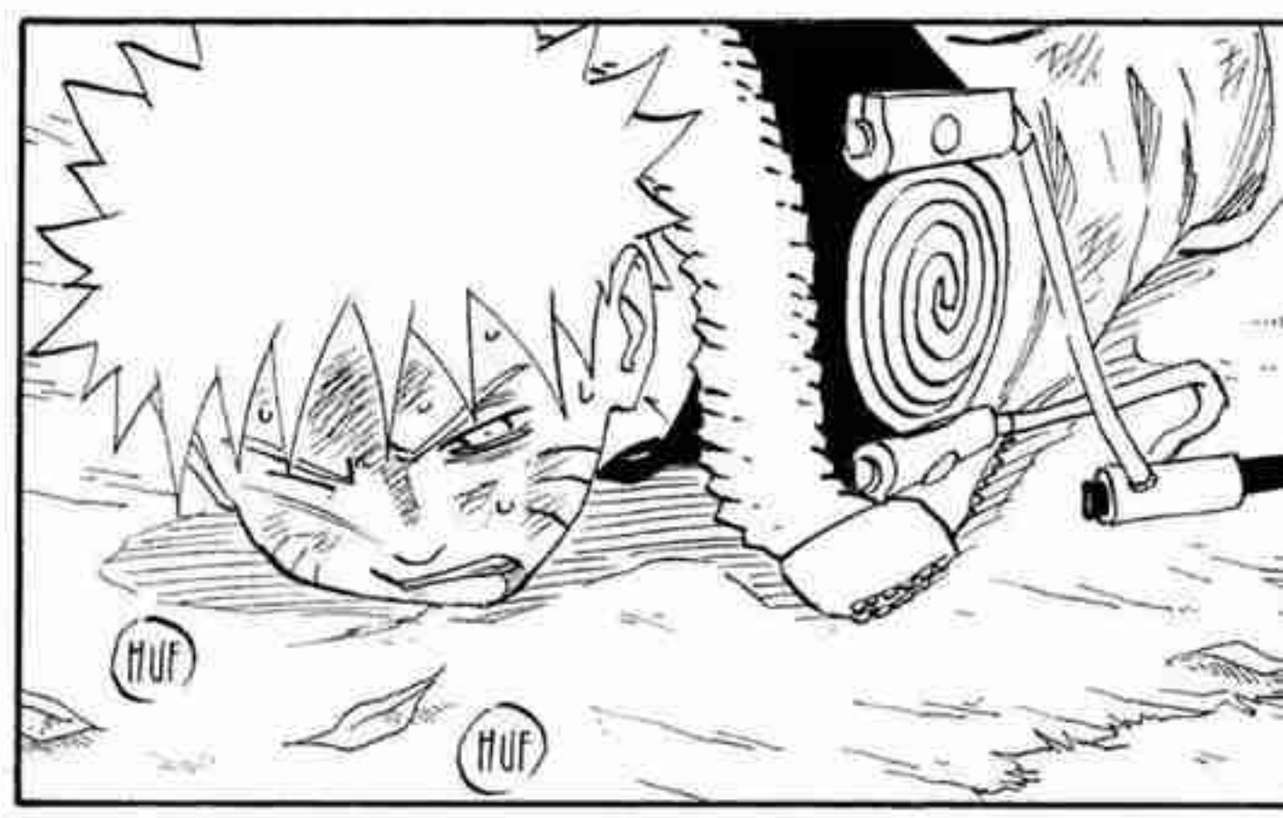
SKITTER
SCATTER

!

KANKURO!!

TAK
TO TTER
HUF
SHMP
HUF
TAP
UGH...!
HEY!!
ZOOM
TAKE CARE OF HER...
HUF
HUF

...WHY ... IS HE SO STRONG...?!
...
HUF
HUF


HUF
HUF

HUF
KREEE...
UGH...

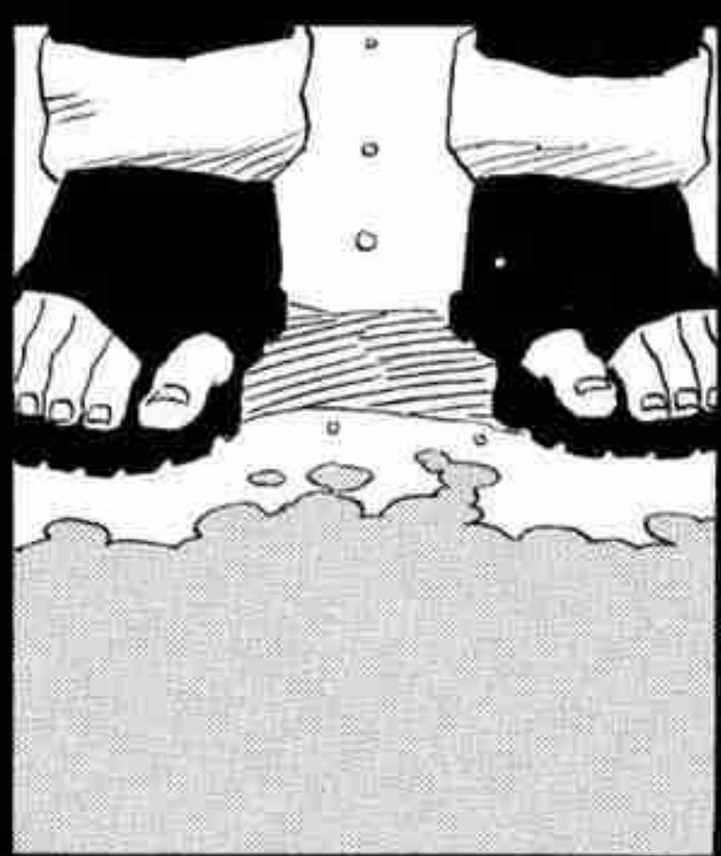
HUF
GRRR
I WON'T !!
I REFUSE !!
...I WILL NOT CEASE TO EXIST ...!

READ THIS WAY
WHOA! SOMETHING SURE IS STINKY!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO TALK TO HIM!
HE DOESN'T HAVE A FAMILY!
HEY! THERE HE IS!
SO THAT'S HIM, HUH...
GO AWAY!
FREAK!

FREAK!

DON'T GO NEAR HIM.
DIE!
SO THAT'S HIM, HUH...
STUPID!

GET LOST!



DON'T LOOK AT HIM.

THAT WAS THE MOST PAINFUL THING...

AND THEN IT CAME TO ME... I KNEW WHAT I WAS... AND I WAS FORCED TO ACCEPT IT.

UGH...!

SKRIIIP

SO... FOR WHAT PURPOSE DO I EXIST? WHY AM I ALIVE?

TO THEM... I AM NOW A RELIC OF THE PAST THAT THEY WISH TO ERASE AND FORGET.

SKRIIIP

...SUPERFLUOUS. UNWANTED. SHUNNED...

(HUF) (HUF)

...!ACCEPTING THAT I WAS ALONE IN THE WORLD...

D...DON'T COME NEAR ME!!

ZAP

UGH...!

SKRIIIP

SKRIIIP

...THE WAY YOU FEEL... I DUNNO WHY, BUT... I UNDERSTAND IT SO WELL... THE HURT...

...IT'S NOT TRIVIAL...

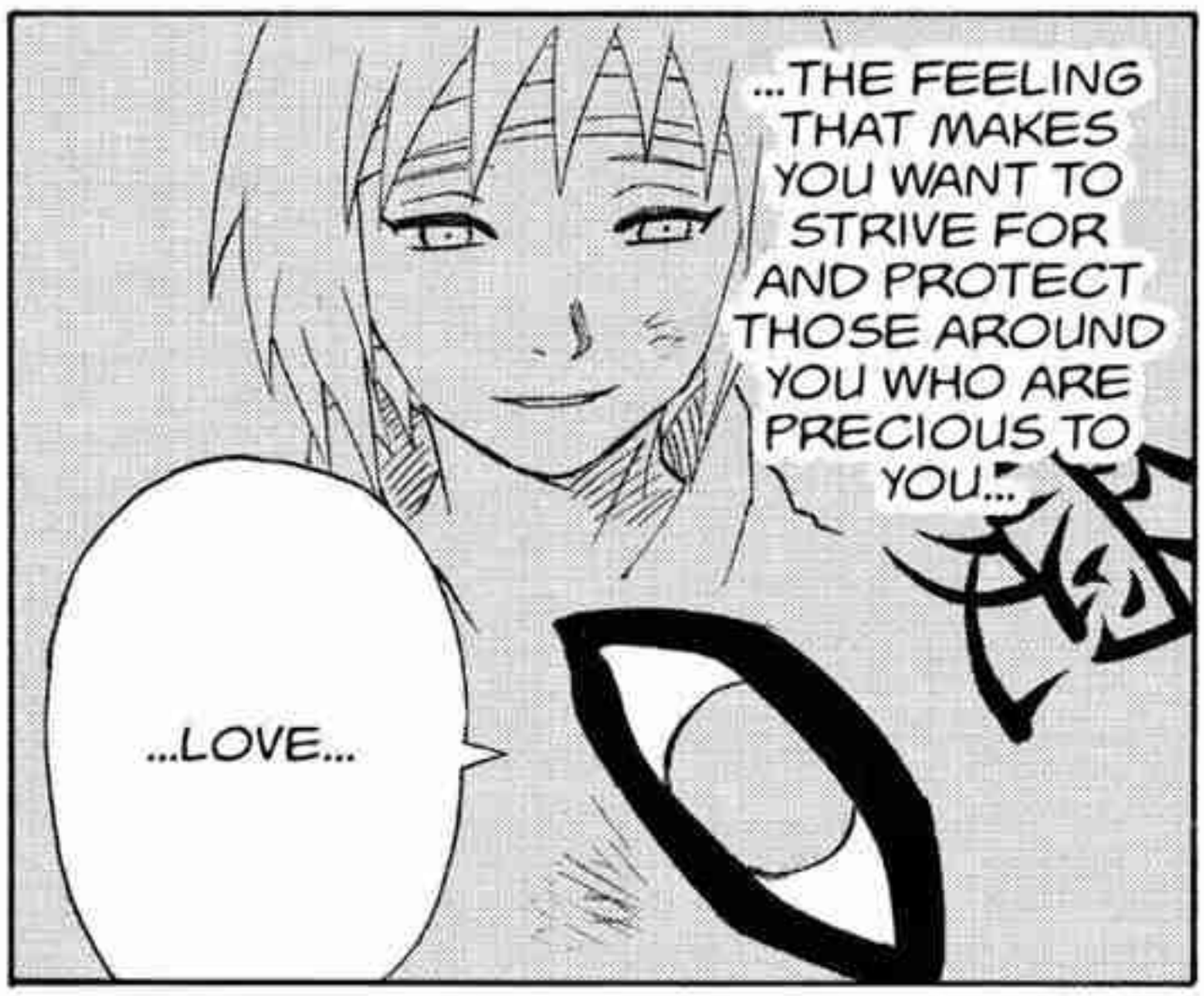
...THAT PAIN... OF BEING ALL ALONE...

HUF
HUF
PEOPLE THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO ME... I WON'T LET YOU HURT THEM...
BUT... I'VE GOT PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT ME NOW...
HUF
HUF

AND THEY UNDERSTAND ME...I COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT THEM...

I LOVE THEM.

THEY SAVED ME FROM MY PIT OF LONELINESS...



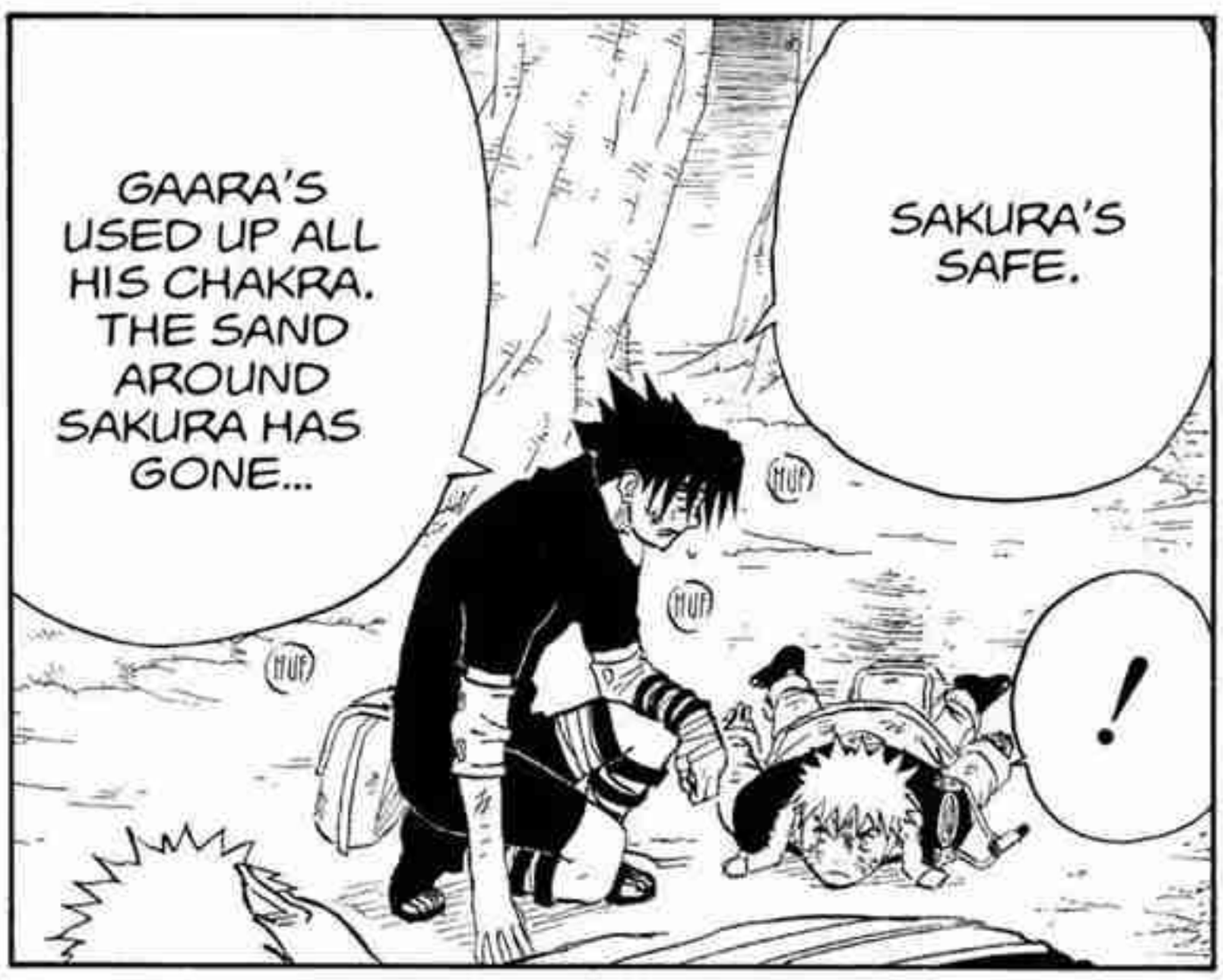
SO THAT'S WHY HE'S SO STRONG ...

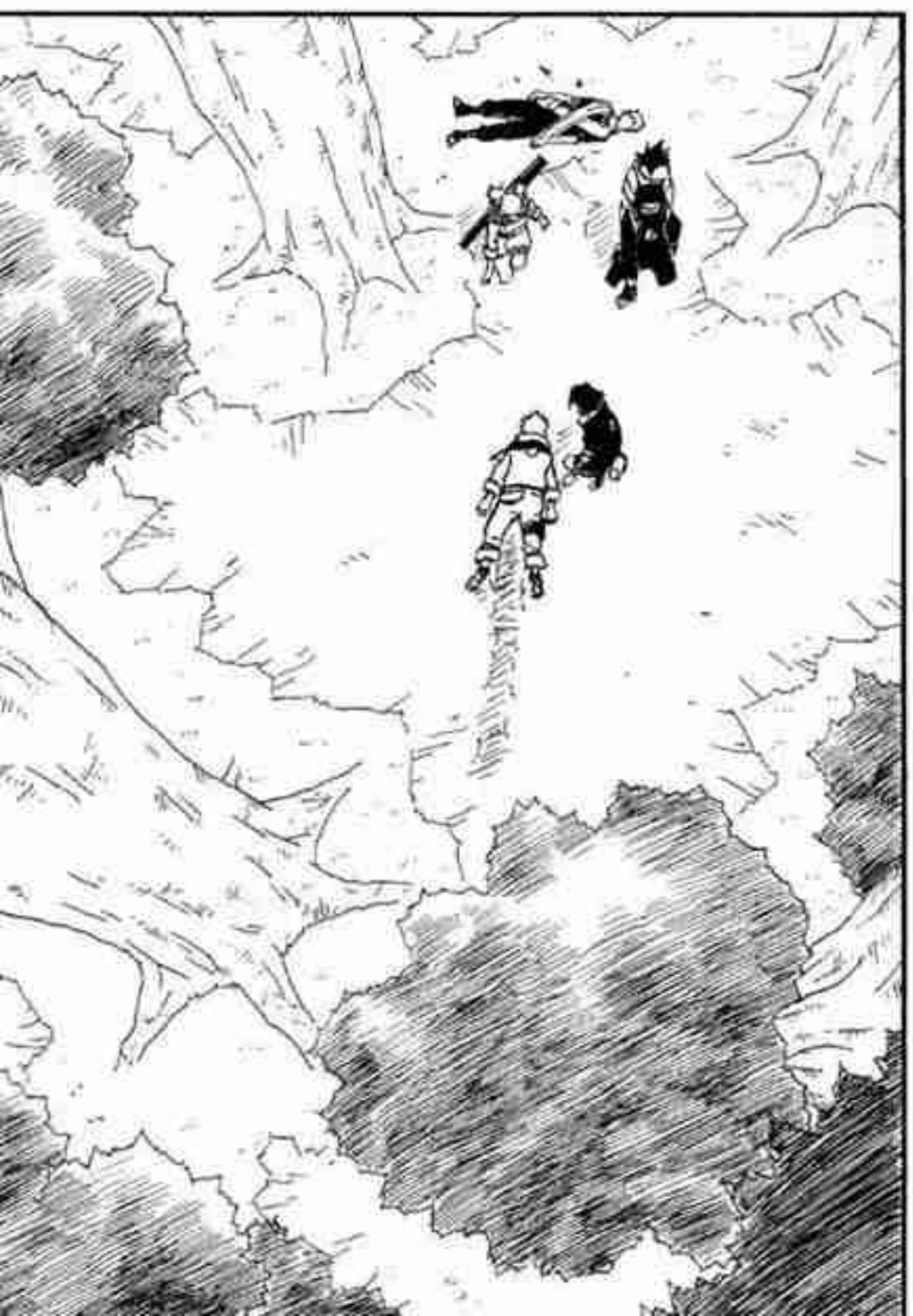
CLMP

YOU CAN STOP NOW, NARUTO...

SKRIIIP

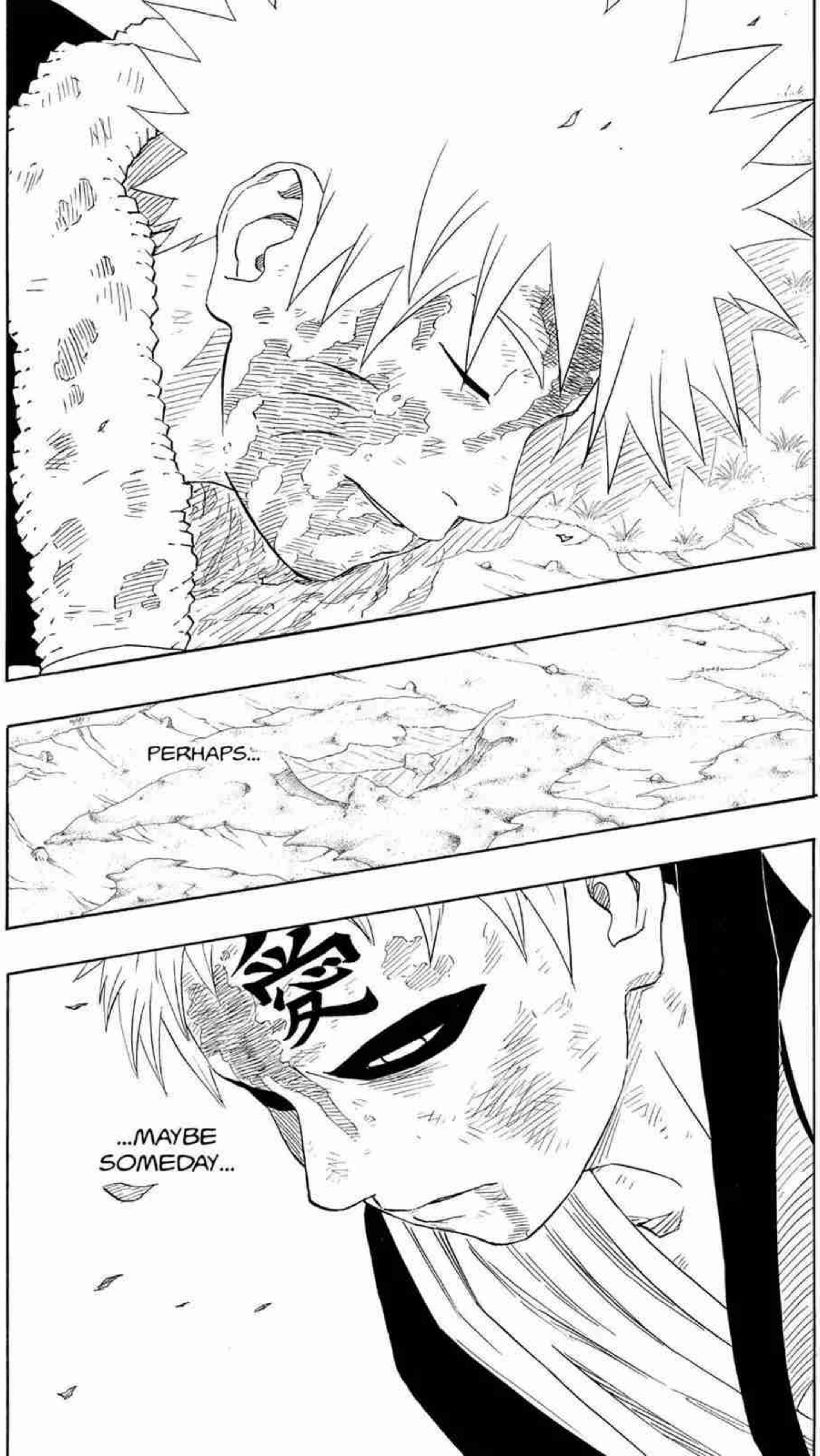
UGH...





...UZUMAKI NARUTO...

IT'S ALL RIGHT... I QUIT.


PERHAPS...
...MAYBE SOMEDAY...

総

READ THIS WAY
...
!
!
I'M SO SORRY...
TEMARI, KANKURO...
愛
UGH...!
ZOOM
ZOOM
ZOOM
UH, WELL, IT'S OKAY, I GUESS...

THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 24 CHAPTER 1

I SOMEHOW MANAGED TO FINISH DRAWING THE 31 PAGES OF THE STAND-ALONE "KARAKURI", AND THE DAY I HAD TO MAIL IT IN TO *JUMP* FINALLY ARRIVED. IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, IT WAS RIGHT AT THE END OF FEBRUARY, AND MY EXAMINER WAS ARAKI HIROHIKO* SENSEI.

I WENT TO THE POST OFFICE, NERVOUSLY HANDED OVER MY MANUSCRIPT, AND PUT MY HANDS TOGETHER SAYING "PLEASE LET ME WIN!" I WAS PRAYING TO THE GODS ONLY WHEN CONVENIENT, AS USUAL. BUT ALWAYS WITH UTMOST SINCERITY, OF COURSE! I WOULD CLOSE MY EYES AND WISH FERVENTLY FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART. I PROBABLY REPEATED MY WORDS, OFFERING THEM TO THE HEAVENS, 20 TIMES. I WAS PRAYING SO EARNESTLY THAT I DIDN'T NOTICE AT FIRST, BUT WHEN I CAME TO, THE POSTAL WORKER WAS FROZEN IN PLACE, ENVELOPE IN HAND, WITH AN INCREDIBLY COLD LOOK IN HIS EYES.

NOT THAT I BLAME HIM, FOR IF SOMEONE HANDS YOU AN ENVELOPE AND IMMEDIATELY FALLS INTO FERVENT WORSHIP, ANYONE WOULD THINK "THIS FELLOW'S WEIRD...". FURTHERMORE, I HAD STARTED MUTTERING UNDER MY BREATH, LOOKING ALL SERIOUS. SO FORGET WEIRD, HE PROBABLY THOUGHT I WAS SCARY! BUT I DIDN'T CARE!! I WANTED TO WIN THE AWARD SO BAD, I COULDN'T HELP IT!!

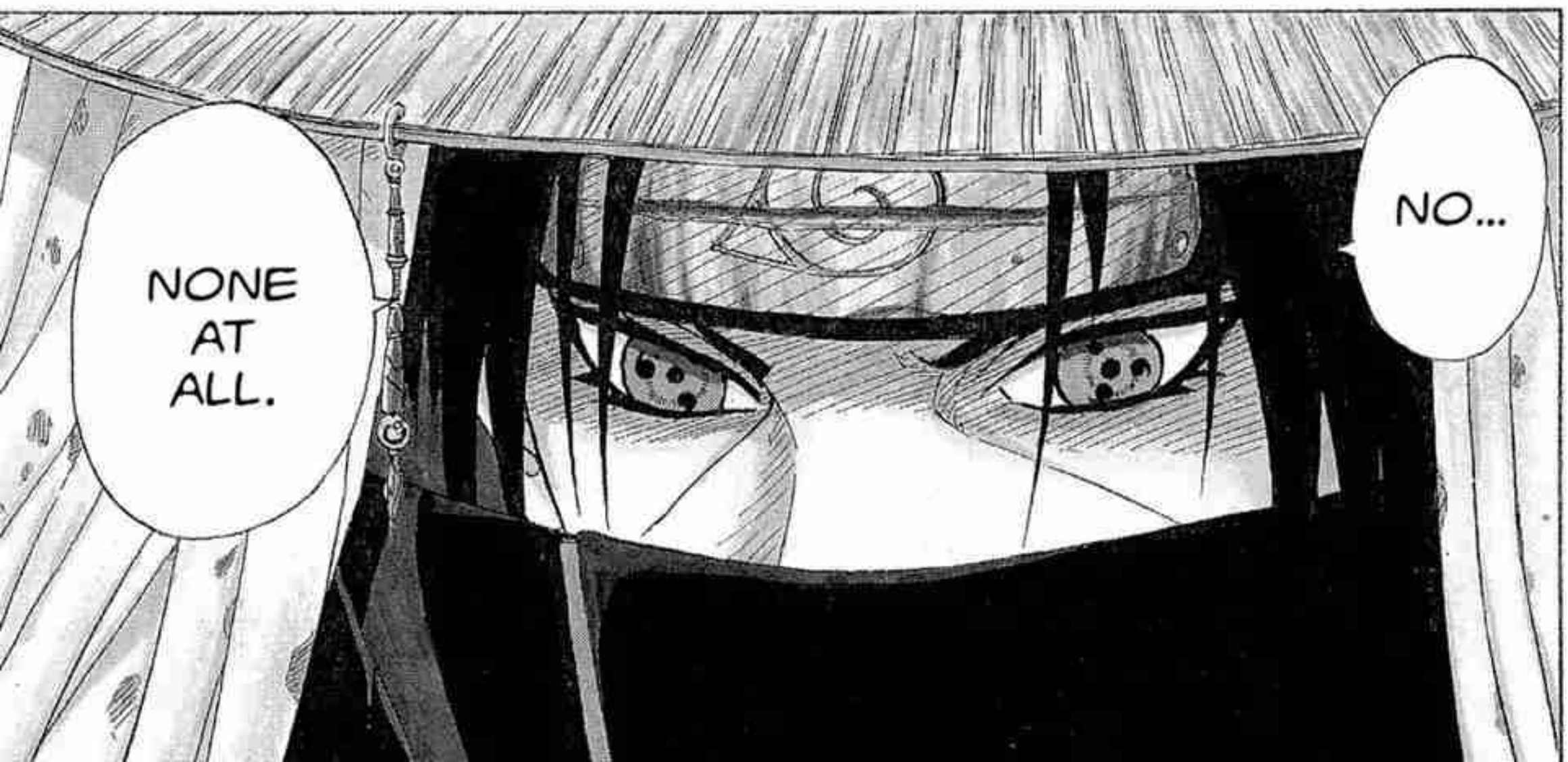
AFTERWARDS, I HAD TO GO HOME AND WAIT THE LONG TWO MONTHS UNTIL THE WINNERS WERE ANNOUNCED. ...EVEN DURING FUN CONVERSATIONS WITH FRIENDS, OR IN THE MIDDLE OF CLASS, I COULDN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT IT. IT WOULD KEEP ME UP AT NIGHT IF I THOUGHT ABOUT IT RIGHT BEFORE BEDTIME. I WOULD SECRETLY PEEK BACK AT THE COPY OF MY MANUSCRIPT AND BE LIKE, "SHOOT! THIS WILL NEVER WIN!" OR, "HMM~! BUT MAYBE, JUST MAYBE, IT WILL PASS..." ...I BECAME MENTALLY FATIGUED. AND SIX DAYS BEFORE THE RESULTS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE ANNOUNCED, ONE OF MY FRIENDS TOLD ME SOMETHING OUTRAGEOUS!

THAT FRIEND WAS A HIGH SCHOOL FRIEND OF USUTA KYOSUKE* SENSEI. AND THIS IS WHAT HE TOLD ME.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

[NOTE: ARAKI HIROHIKO IS THE ARTIST OF *JOJO'S BIZARRE ADVENTURE*. USUTA KYOSUKE IS THE ARTIST OF *SEXY COMMANDO GAIDEN*.]

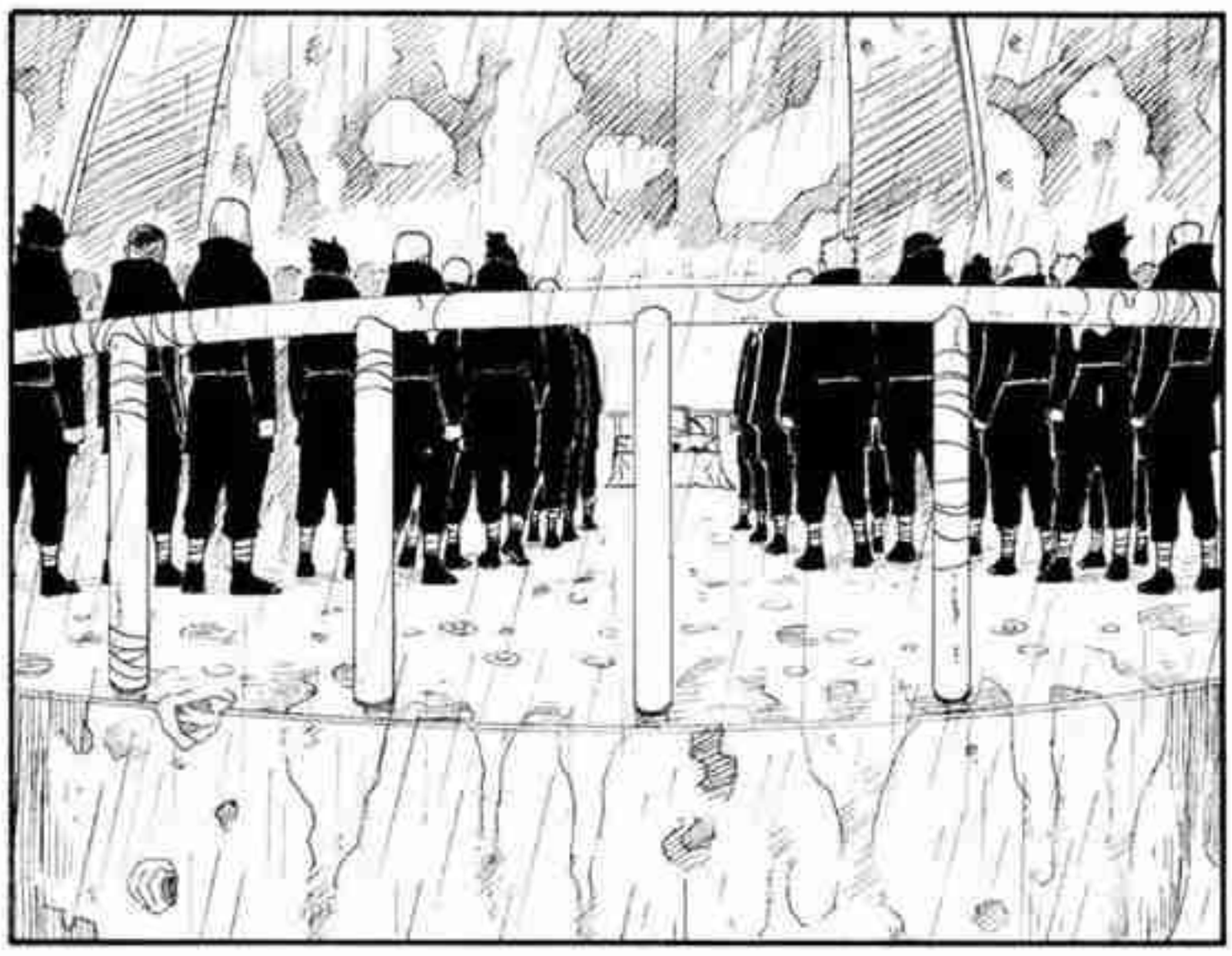
Number 139: Eulogy...!!

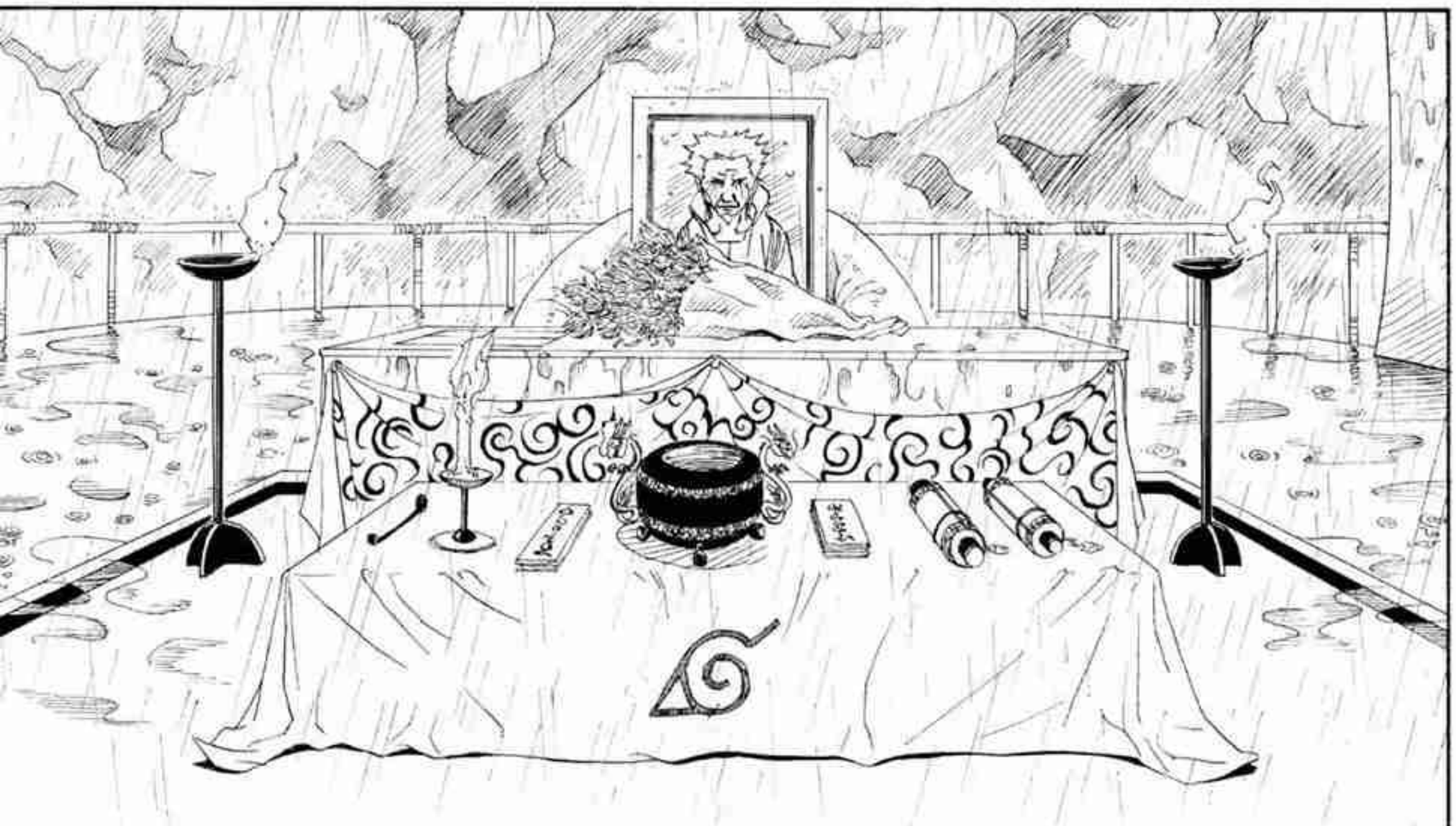


Number 139:
Eulogy...zz

NARUTO
-ナルト-

TWO DAYS AFTER THE BATTLE.





...

...SOB...
SOB...

IT'S NOT EASY TO HIDE ONE'S GRIEF AND PRETEND TO LAUGH...

IT HAS ALREADY BEEN A YEAR, EH...

!

SOB... SNIFF...

...

...

AIC AIC

...

...THAT AT THE ACADEMY...

...YOU'RE THE BUTT OF EVERYONE'S JOKES...

I HAVE HEARD FROM YOUR HOMEROOM TEACHER...

...HELPED DEFEND THIS VILLAGE FROM THE FOX MONSTER AT THE COST OF THEIR LIVES...

THEY'RE HEROES!!

BOTH PA AND MA...

...

IT IS HONORABLE FOR SHINOBI TO DIE IN THE LINE OF DUTY!!

I...I'M NOT SAD AT ALL!

I'M NOT SAD BECAUSE I'M NEVER ALONE!!

AND I AM THEIR SON!!

...HOWEVER, AS YOU SAY, YOU ARE NOT ALONE...

!

!

...

A BOY HUGS HIS KNEES ONLY WHEN HE FEELS TRULY ALONE...

ENOUGH ...

AND THESE, THESE ARE TEARS OF JOY...

SQUEEZE

...WILL OF FIRE?

...

...CARRY THE WILL OF FIRE WITHIN THEM.

FOR ALL OF KONOHA'S SHINOBI...

THE BURNING DESIRE TO DEFEND THIS VILLAGE.

...

...MY DEAR IRUKA... DO YOU POSSESS IT...?

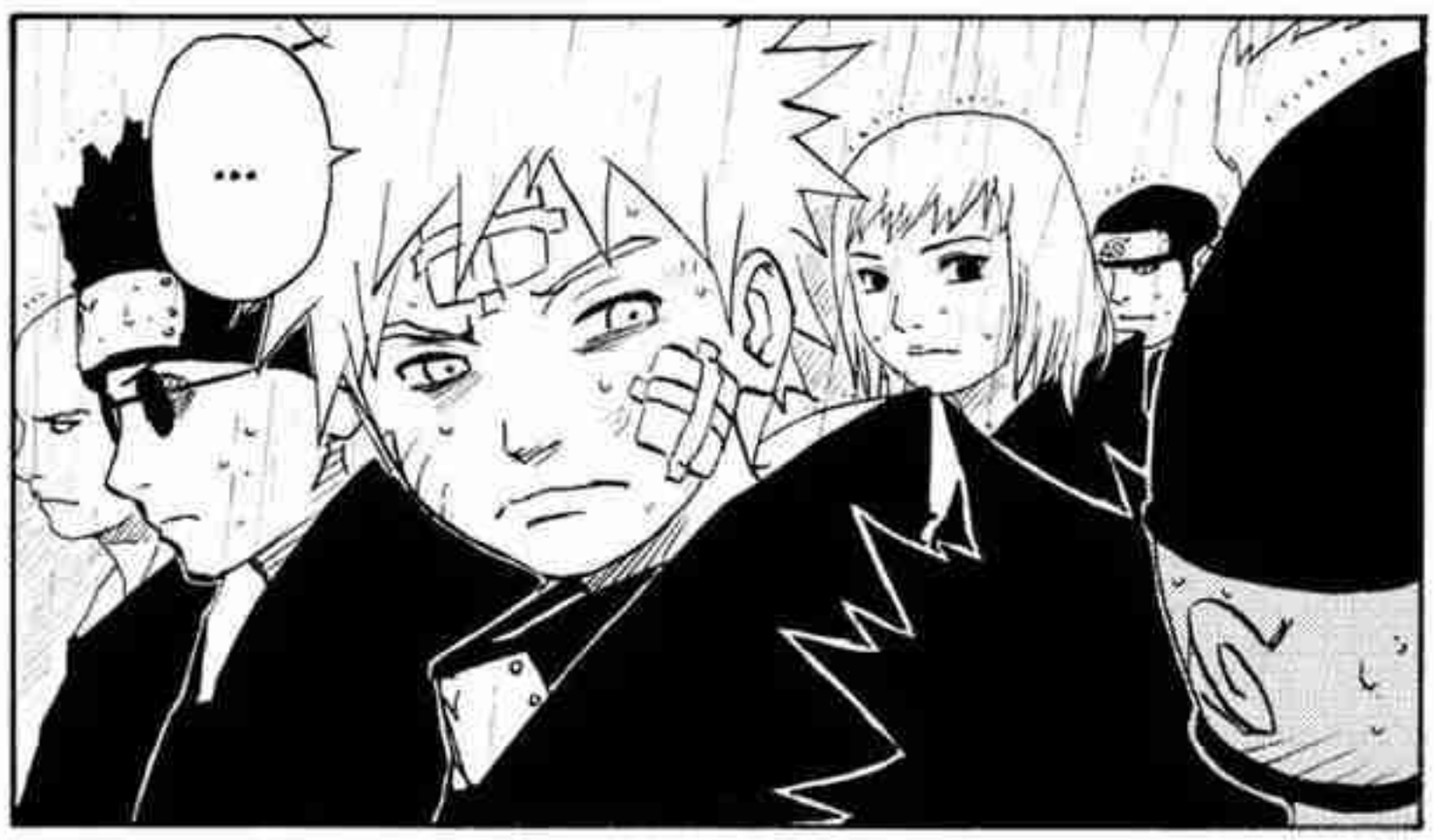
...SO LONG AS ONE BEARS THIS WILL OF FIRE, EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THOSE WHO LIVE IN THIS VILLAGE ARE FAMILY...

...

SMILE...

YEAH!

SOB...
SOB...


...

SHF

THAT FOR HAYATE ...?

YOU BETTER HURRY...
THE THIRD LORD'S FUNERAL SERVICE HAS ALREADY STARTED...

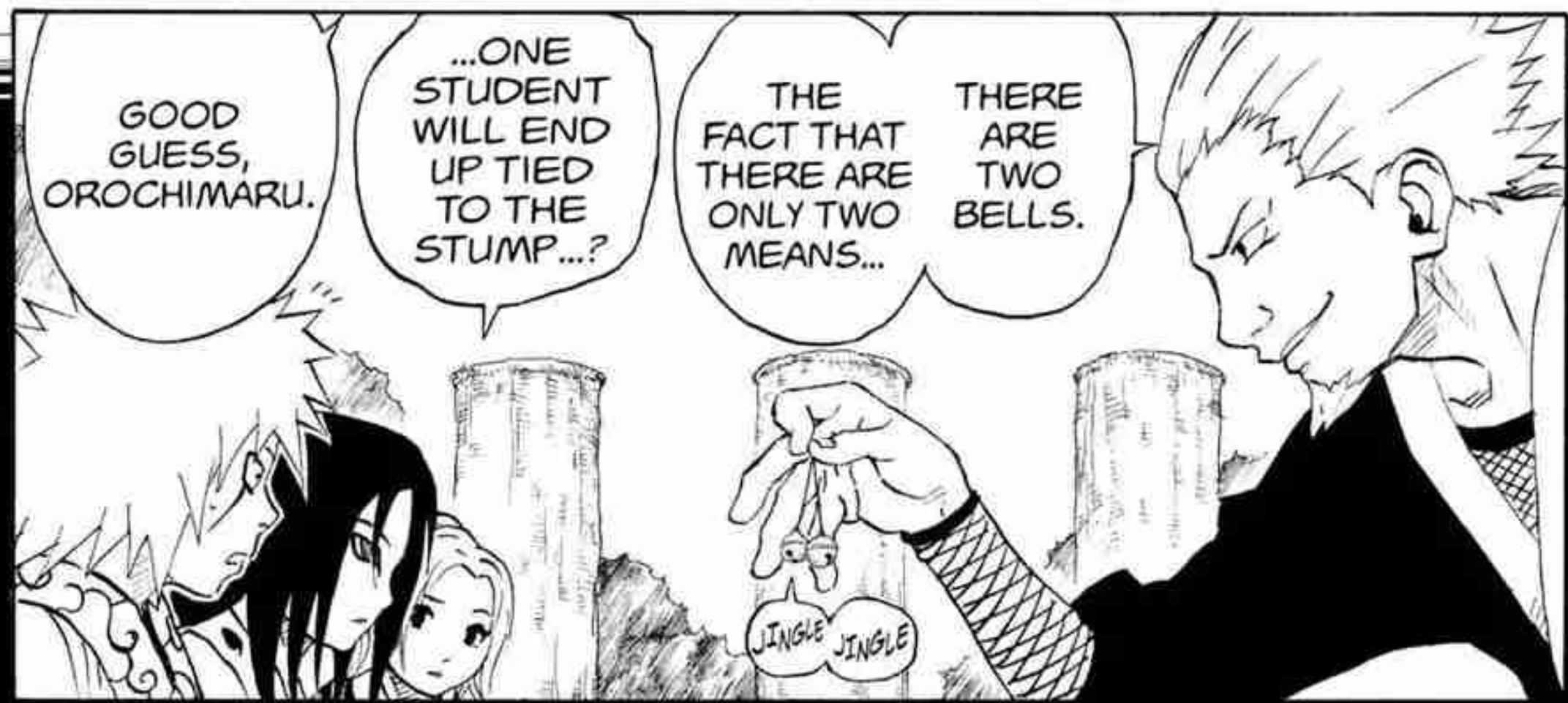
...

INSTEAD OF CONSTANTLY INVENTING NEW EXCUSES FOR WHY YOU'RE LATE, WHY DON'T YOU JUST COME HERE EARLIER?
AND YOU, KAKASHI? PAYING RESPECTS TO OBITO...?

...!
...I DO... FIRST THING IN THE MORNING...

...I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT WHAT AN IDIOT I USED TO BE...
...IT'S JUST THAT ONCE I GET HERE...

HEH.


GOOD GUESS, OROCHIMARU.
...ONE STUDENT WILL END UP TIED TO THE STUMP...?
THE FACT THAT THERE ARE ONLY TWO MEANS...
THERE ARE TWO BELLS.
JINGLE JINGLE

SHUT UP, TSUNADE! YA TOMBOY FREAK!!
HA HA HA... JIRAIYA, I WIN THE BET!
YOU'RE THE ONE ON THE STUMP, LIKE I GUESSED!

JINGLE

ALL RIGHT!! I'M UP FOR IT!!

KWF
YES, SIR--♡

...HEH.

TSUNADE, YOU AND OROCHI-MARU CAN GO HOME.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! BREAK IT UP NOW...
WHAT DIDJA SAY, YOU EGGHEAD PERV?!!
SHOOF

...
POUT...

BUT...
IT'S DOWNRIGHT EMBARRASSING FOR A NINJA TO FALL FOR SUCH OBVIOUS TRAPS OVER AND OVER AGAIN!!
...SHEESH...

GRRR

...

YOU COULD LEARN A THING OR TWO FROM OROCHI-MARU!

BUT FOR WHEN I GO RESEARCHING, I USE TRANSPARENCY JUTSU!

I HAVEN'T BEEN CAUGHT YET!

MASTER SARUTOBI, YOU'RE **ALWAYS** "OROCHIMARU THIS" AND "OROCHIMARU THAT"!

I'M GOING WITH YOU NEXT TIME...

ALL RIGHT, LET'S SEE JUST HOW GOOD THESE SPYING JUTSU OF YOURS ARE...

...

SHEESH

...

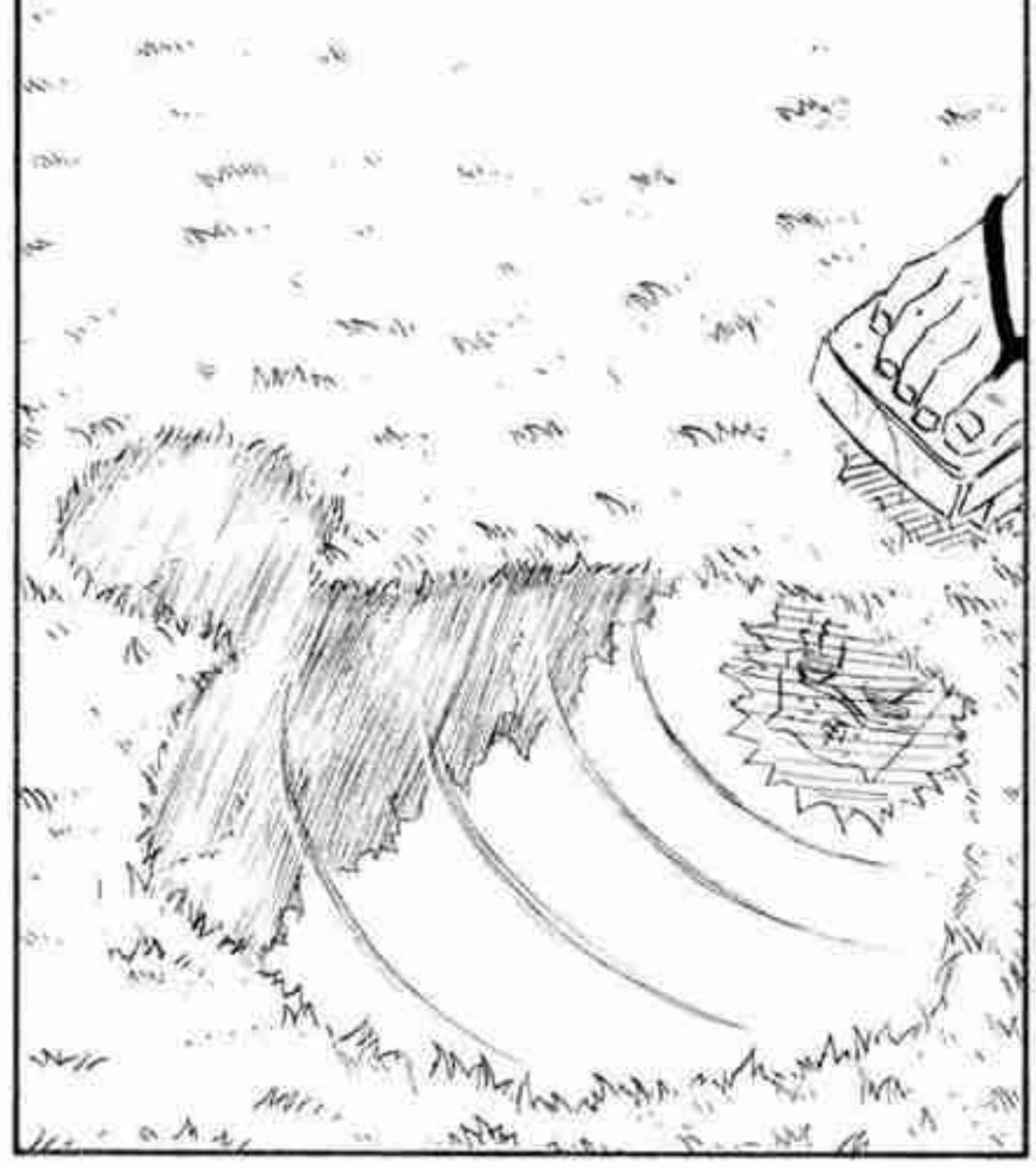
...?!

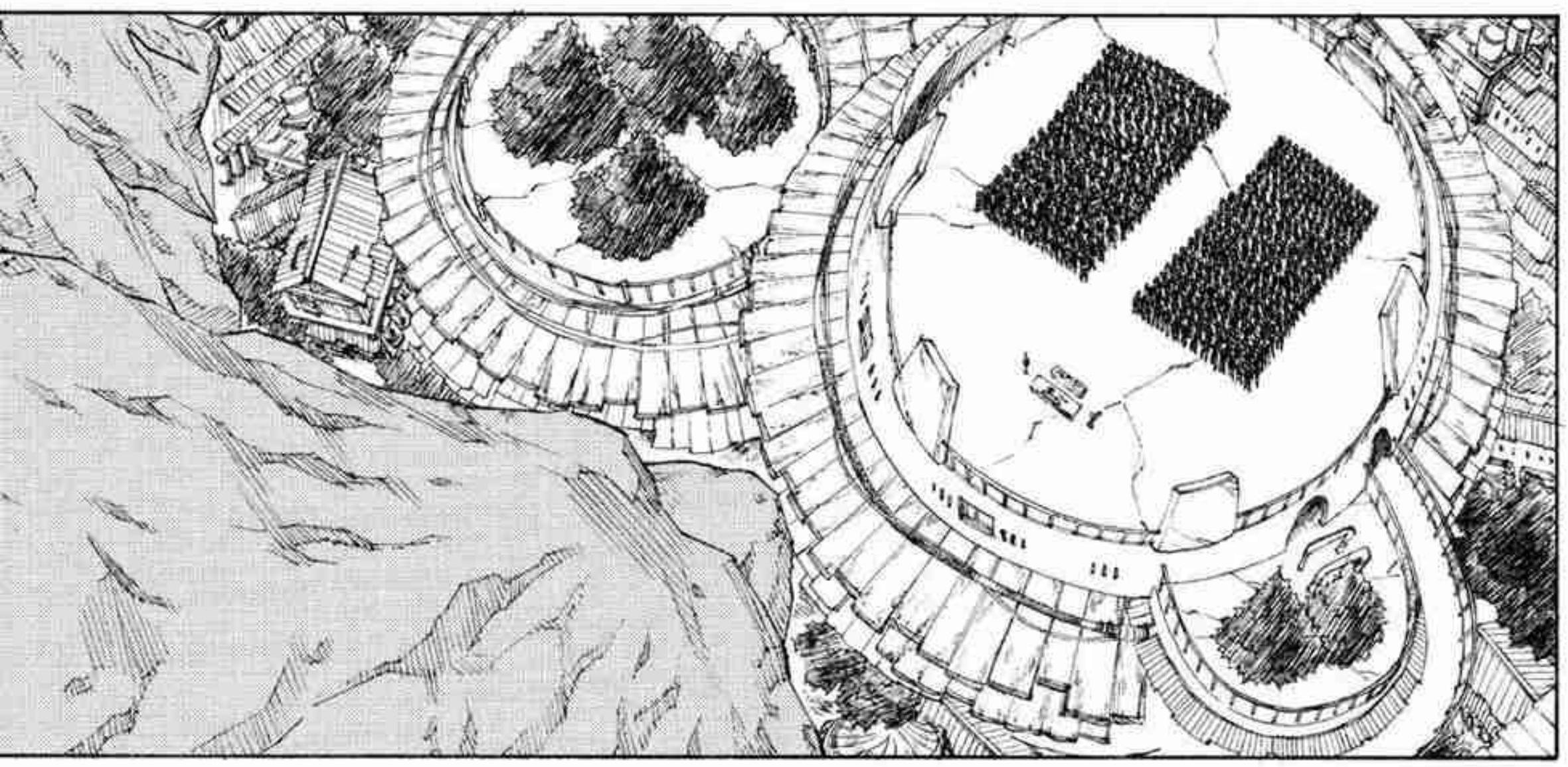
...

YOU OLD PERV, MASTER SARUTOBI

...

...





MASTER IRUKA...

...

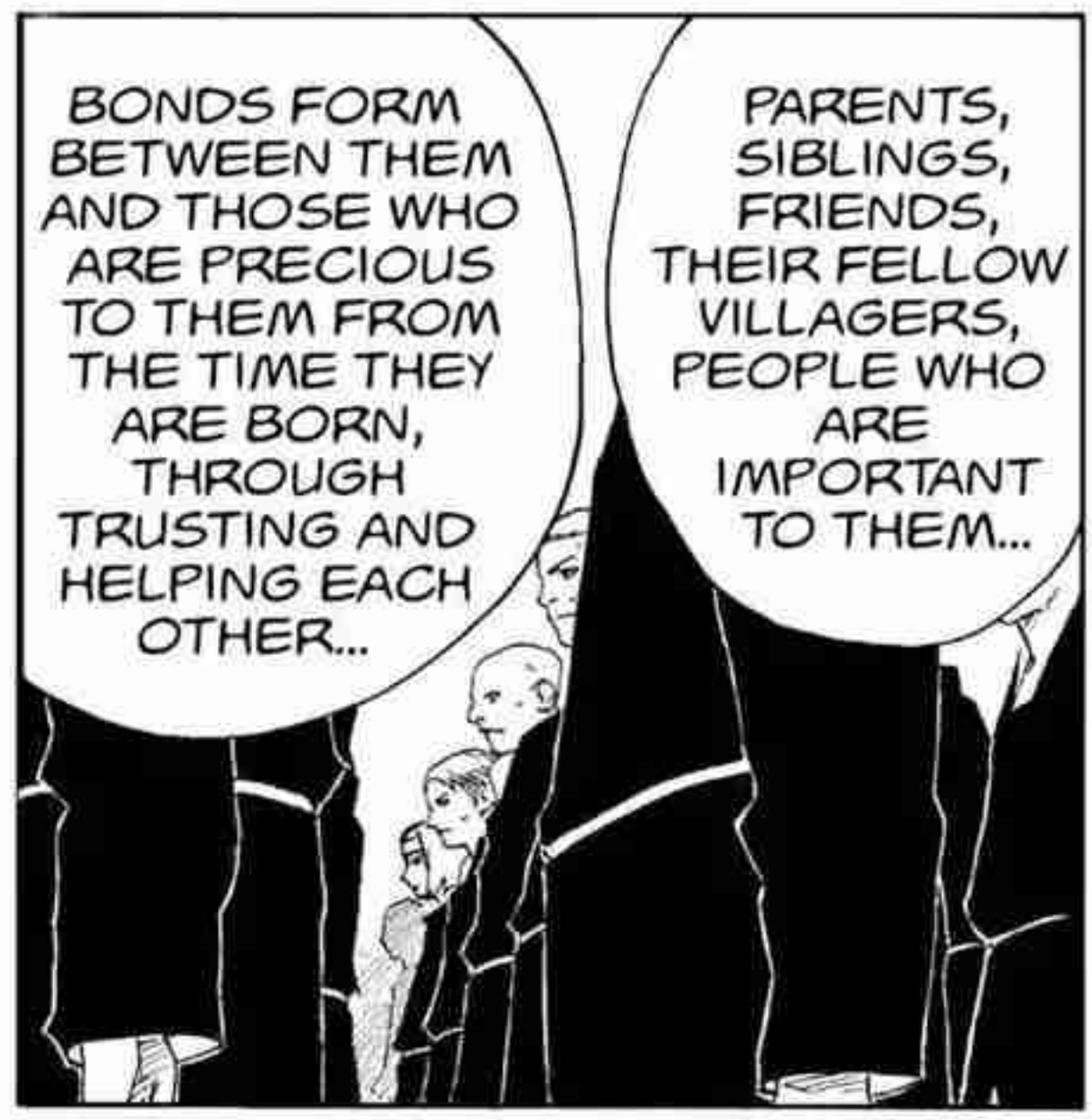
...RISK THEIR OWN LIVES FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS...?
...WHY DO PEOPLE...

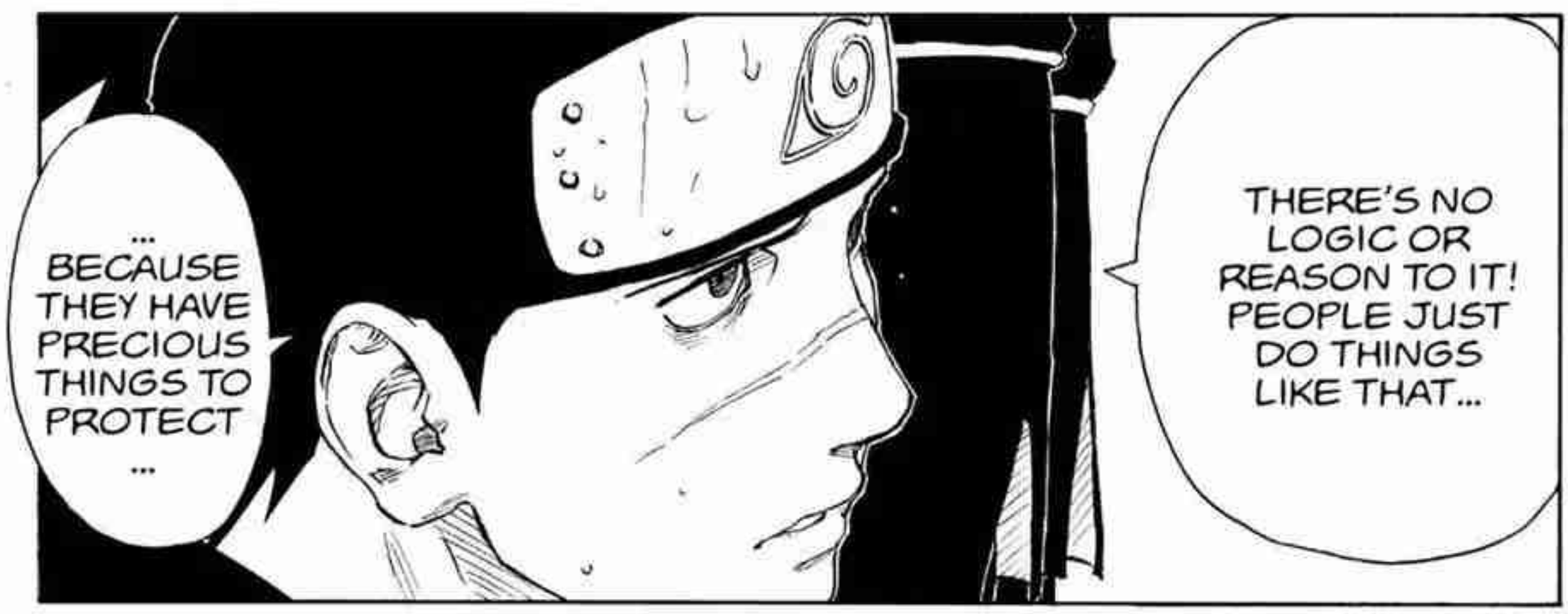
HAYATE IS ONE SUCH EXAMPLE...

THOSE WHO DIE HAVE DREAMS AND GOALS... BUT THEY ALL HAVE SOMETHING ELSE JUST AS IMPORTANT.

ALONG WITH THEIR PAST, THEIR CURRENT LIFE, AND THEIR FUTURE...
WHEN ONE HUMAN DIES... THEY PASS AWAY.
MANY PEOPLE DIE ON MISSIONS OR THROUGH WAR. AND WHEN THEY DIE, IT HAPPENS STARTLINGLY QUICKLY... AND SIMPLY.

READ THIS WAY
...GROW THICKER AND STRONGER...
THESE STRINGS THAT CONNECT THEM, AS TIME PASSES...


BONDS FORM BETWEEN THEM AND THOSE WHO ARE PRECIOUS TO THEM FROM THE TIME THEY ARE BORN, THROUGH TRUSTING AND HELPING EACH OTHER...
PARENTS, SIBLINGS, FRIENDS, THEIR FELLOW VILLAGERS, PEOPLE WHO ARE IMPORTANT TO THEM...


... BECAUSE THEY HAVE PRECIOUS THINGS TO PROTECT ...
THERE'S NO LOGIC OR REASON TO IT! PEOPLE JUST DO THINGS LIKE THAT...

YEAH... I THINK I'M STARTING... TO GET THAT NOW...
...

HE DID LEAVE ALL OF US SOMETHING IMPORTANT...
WELL, THE THIRD HOKAGE DID NOT DIE IN VAIN.

BUT... IT'S PAINFUL TO DIE, TOO.

WELL, DON'T WORRY... YOU'LL UNDERSTAND EVENTUALLY.
?

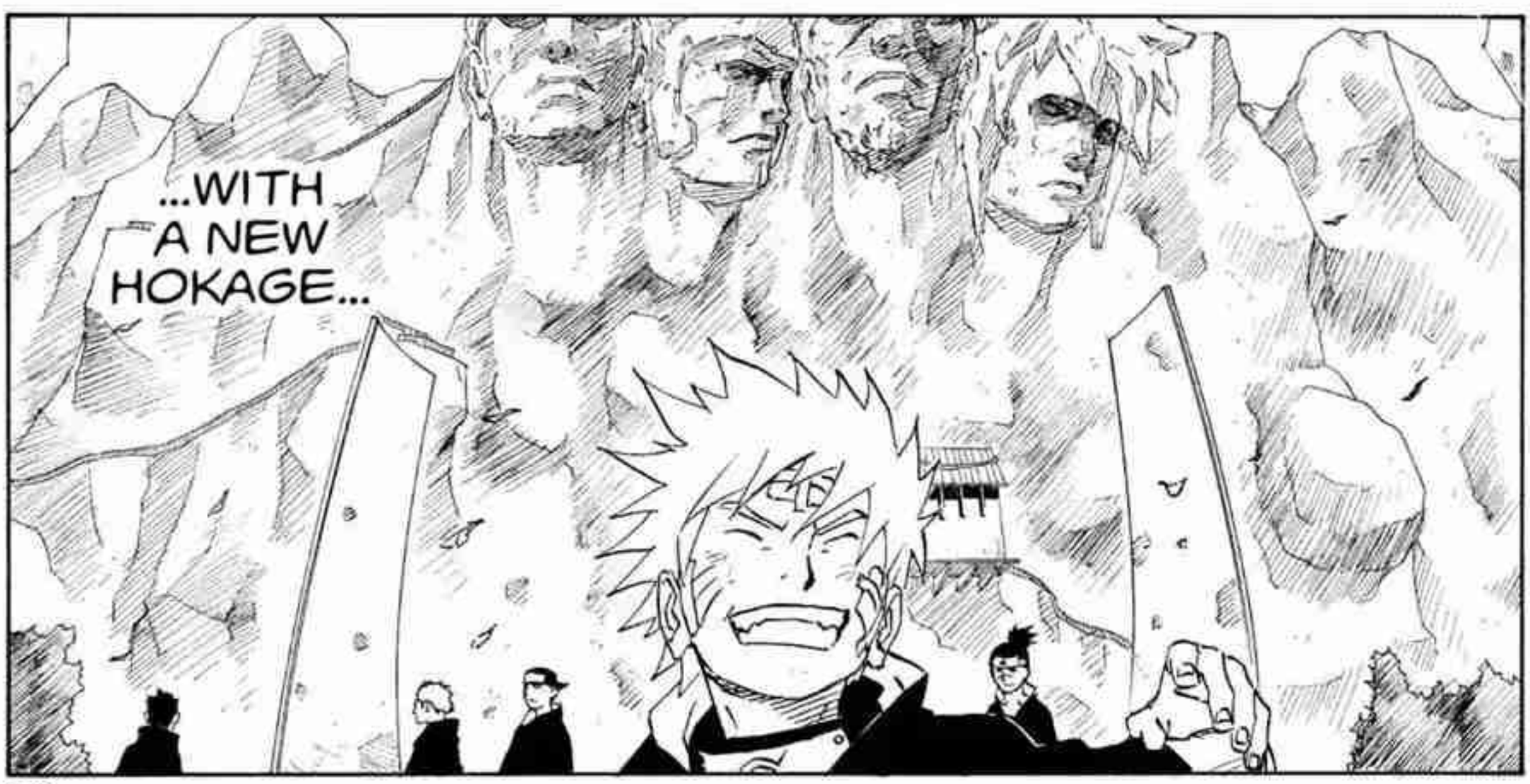
GIVE ME SOME CREDIT—I UNDERSTAND!
HEY...!

SHOO

YEAH.
WELL THEN, MASTER IRUKA!
KWF

...AND WILL COME TO LIGHT AND PROTECT THIS VILLAGE ONCE MORE...
...THOSE LITTLE EMBERS THAT ALIGHT UPON THE TREE LEAVES WILL EVENTUALLY BLAZE STRONG AND FIERCE...

...HAVE SPLENDIDLY INHERITED THE WILL OF FIRE OF WHICH YOU SPOKE...
THIRD HOKAGE...
...IT SEEMS ALL THE LITTLE TREE LEAVES OF KONOHA...


...WITH A NEW HOKAGE...

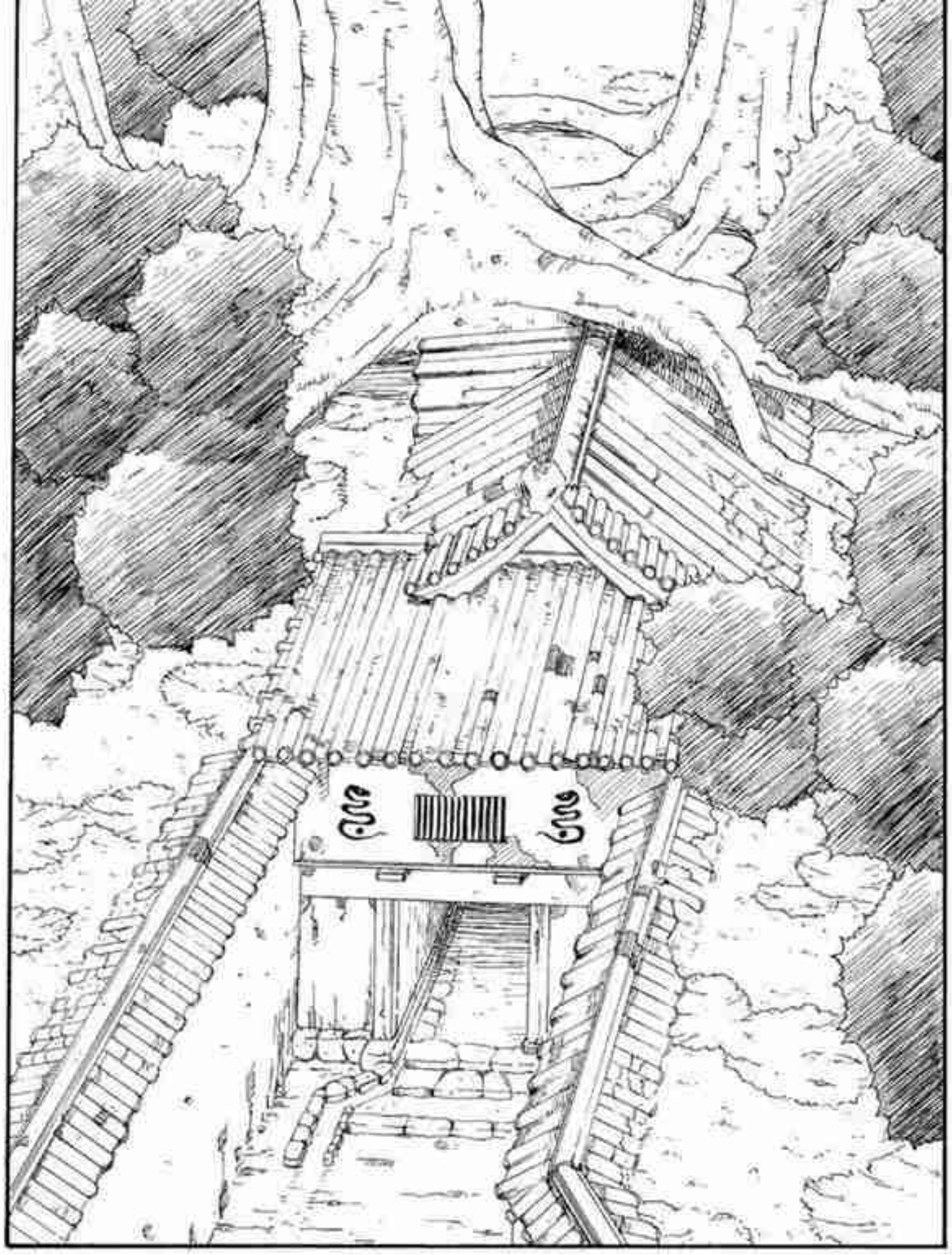
四区
Number 140: Contact...!!

EH-HEH HEH.

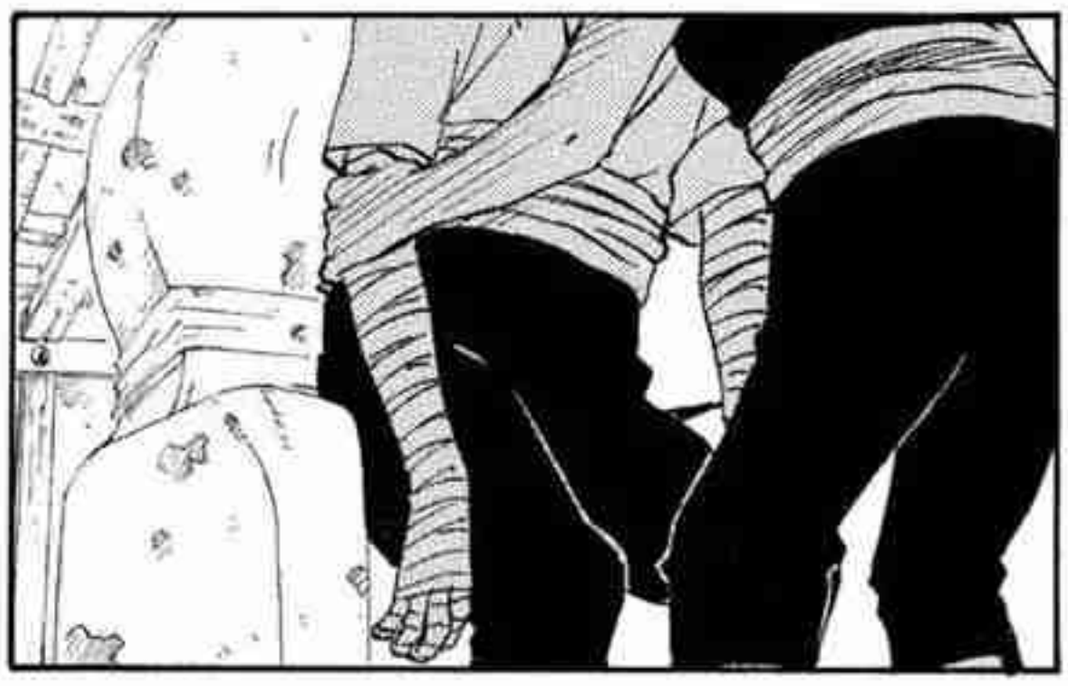
YOU STILL ENGAGE IN SUCH FOOLISH ACTIVITIES...?
TECHNI-CALLY, IT'S RESEARCH!
CRUNCH

AND JUST WHAT BUSINESS DO THE CHIEF COUNSELORS HAVE WITH ME?
IF IT ISN'T OLD MAN HOMURA AND MISTRESS KOHARU...

UGH...!



FWUMP
SARU-TOBI... YOU...!
CREAK



...!

EVEN SUMMONING TWO OF THE FIVE SHADOWS ...
BESIDES, YOU DID EXTREMELY WELL.

AFTER ALL, WE DID TAKE ON THE HOKAGE FULLY KNOWING HIS REPUTATION AS THE STRONGEST LEADER OF THE FIVE PRINCIPAL TERRITORIES.
WELL, WE KNEW IT WASN'T GOING TO BE EASY.

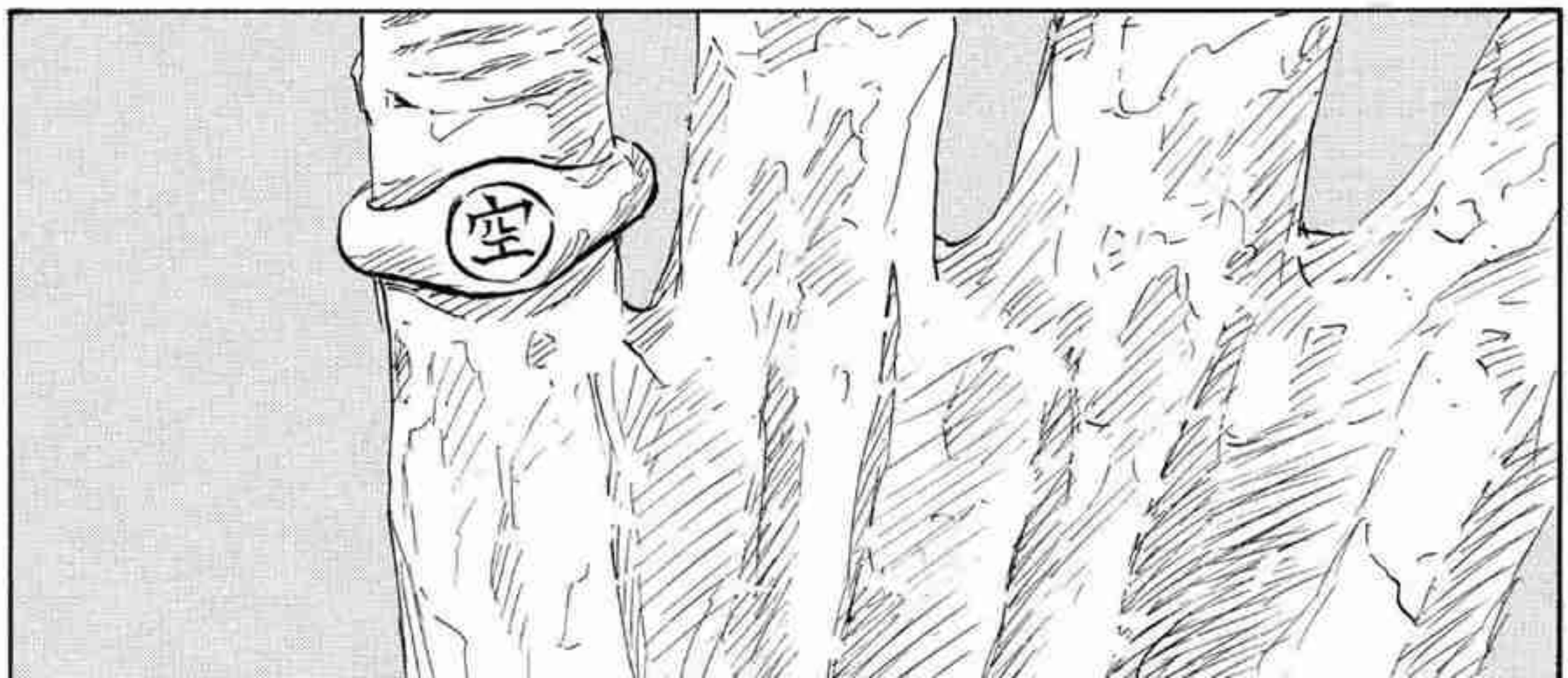
I WILL KILL YOU...

I WON'T BE PATRONIZED, DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME...?

HE IS STRONGER THAN I...

BUT THAT DREAM HAS DIED...

THIS ALL WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN NECESSARY IF WE HAD BEEN ABLE TO ROPE IN UCHIHA ITACHI FROM THE BEGINNING...



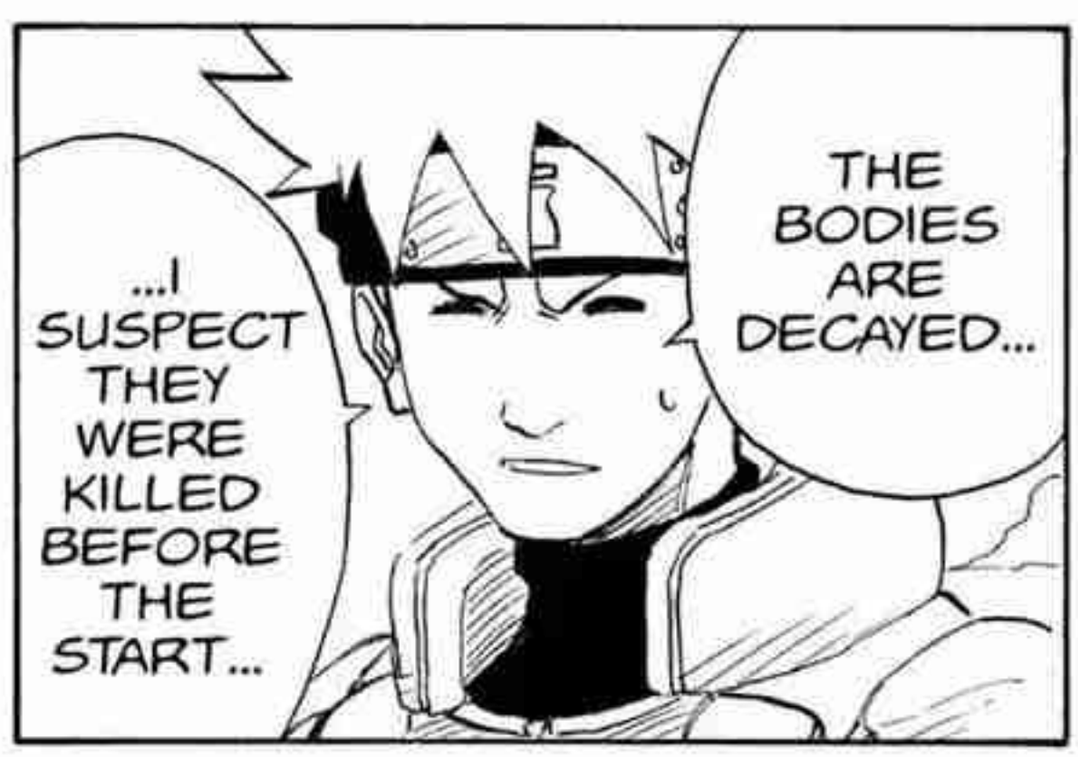
TWEEE

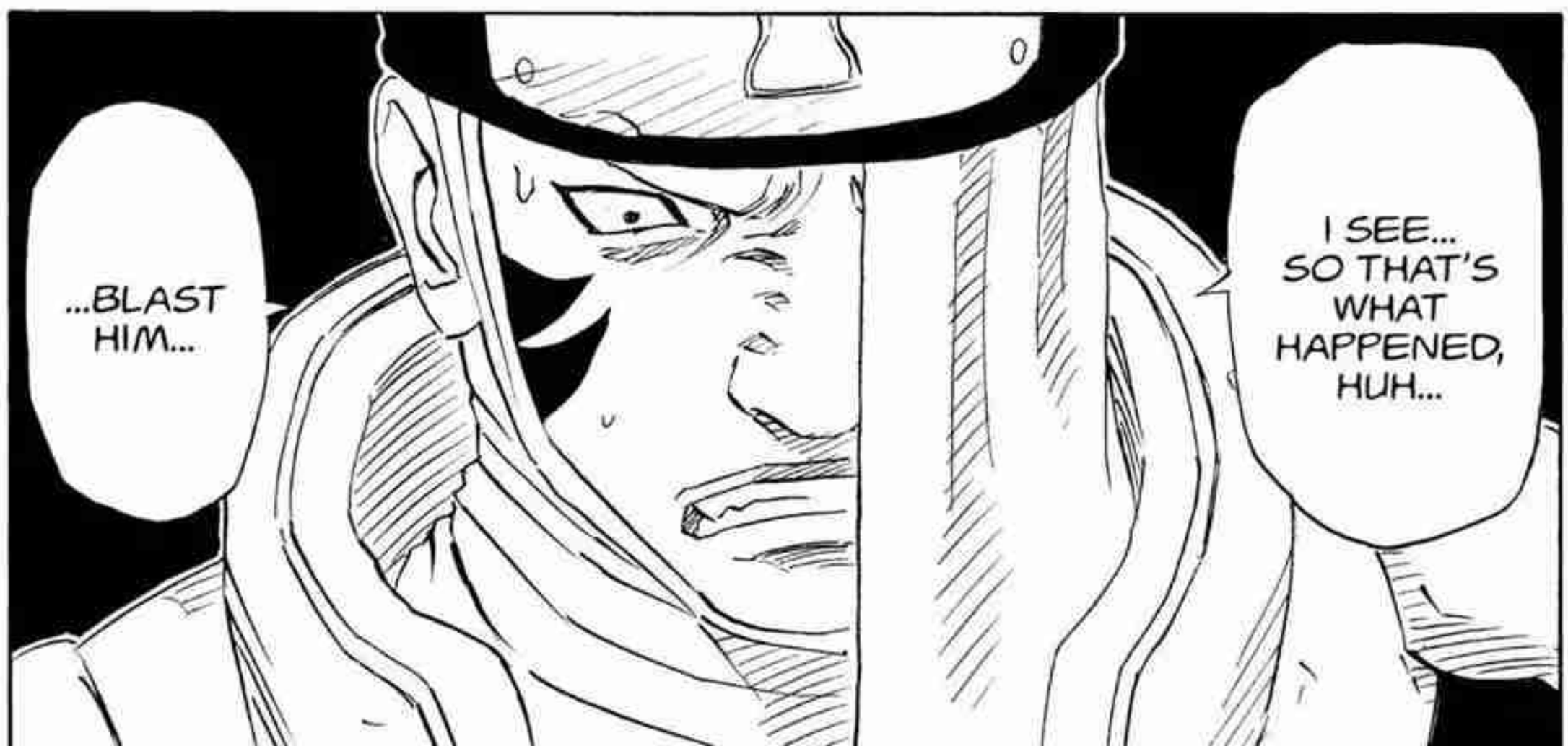
TMP
TMP

THIS WAY!

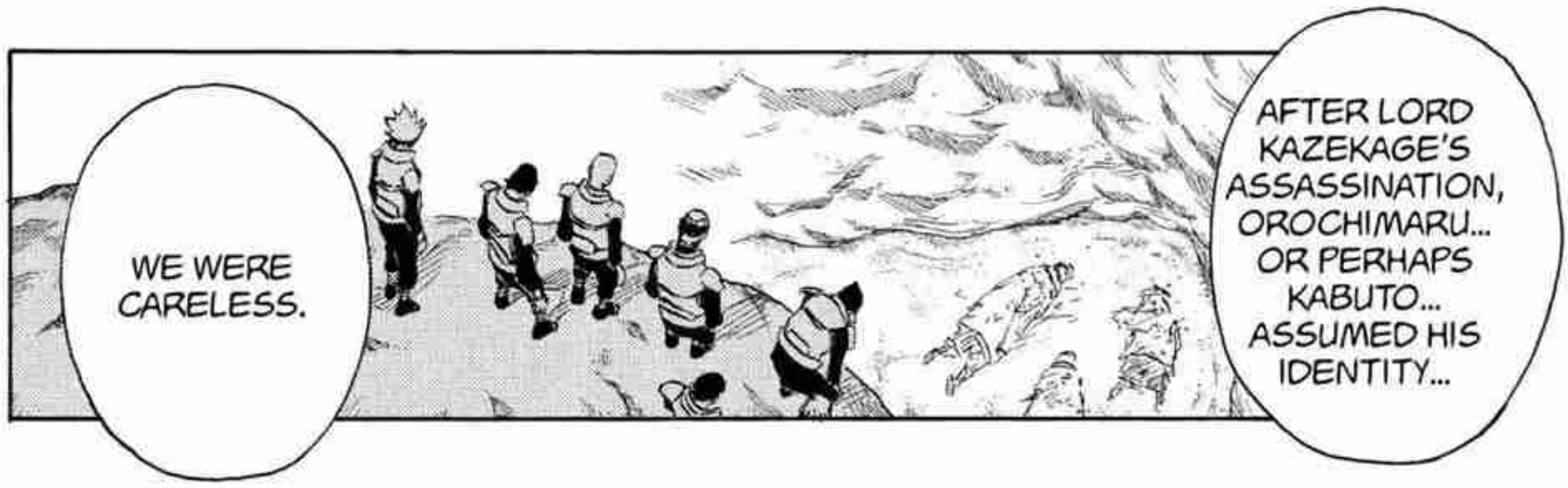
!!
TH... THAT'S!

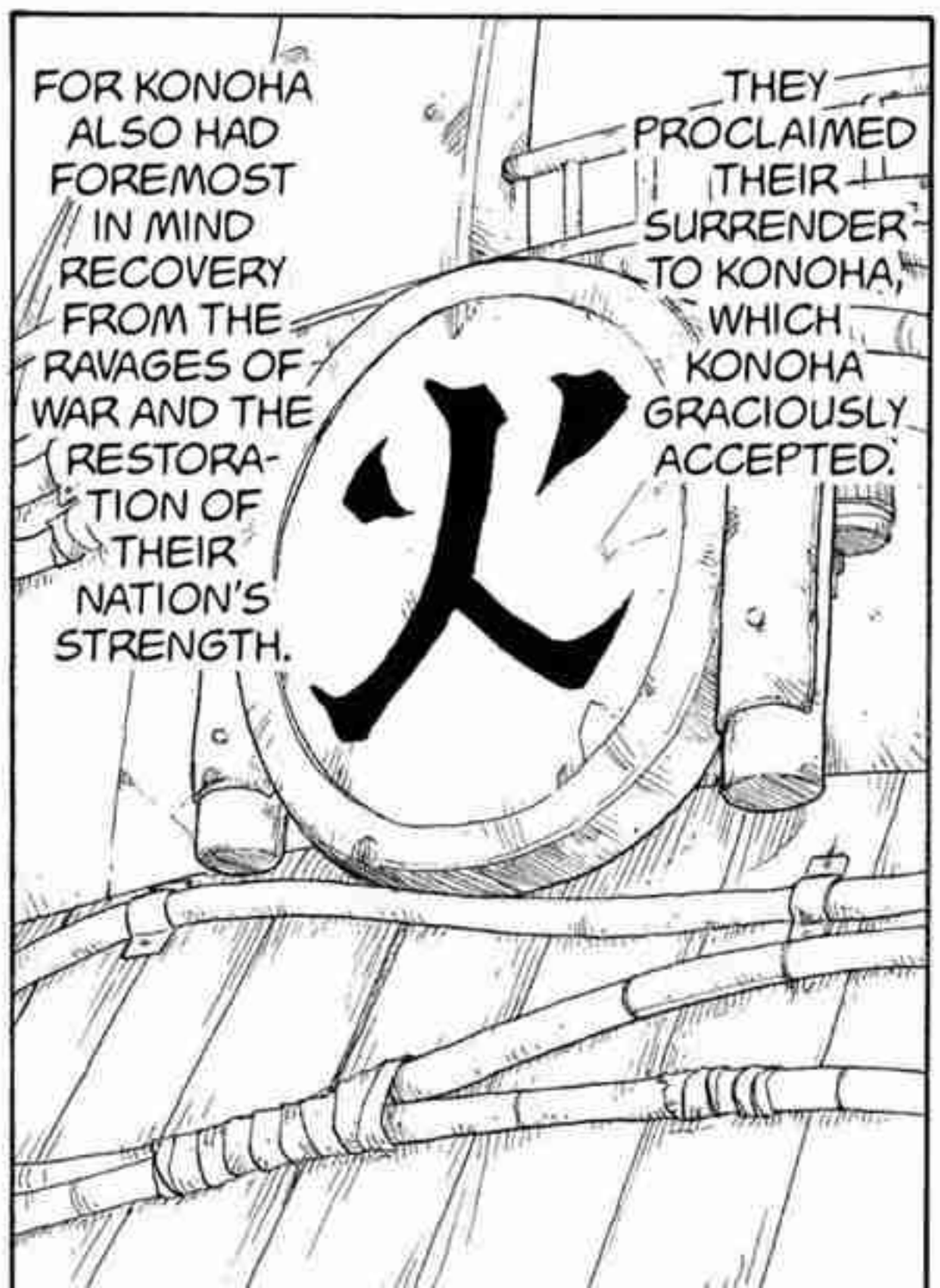
...GAH...


...I SUSPECT THEY WERE KILLED BEFORE THE START...
THE BODIES ARE DECAYED...

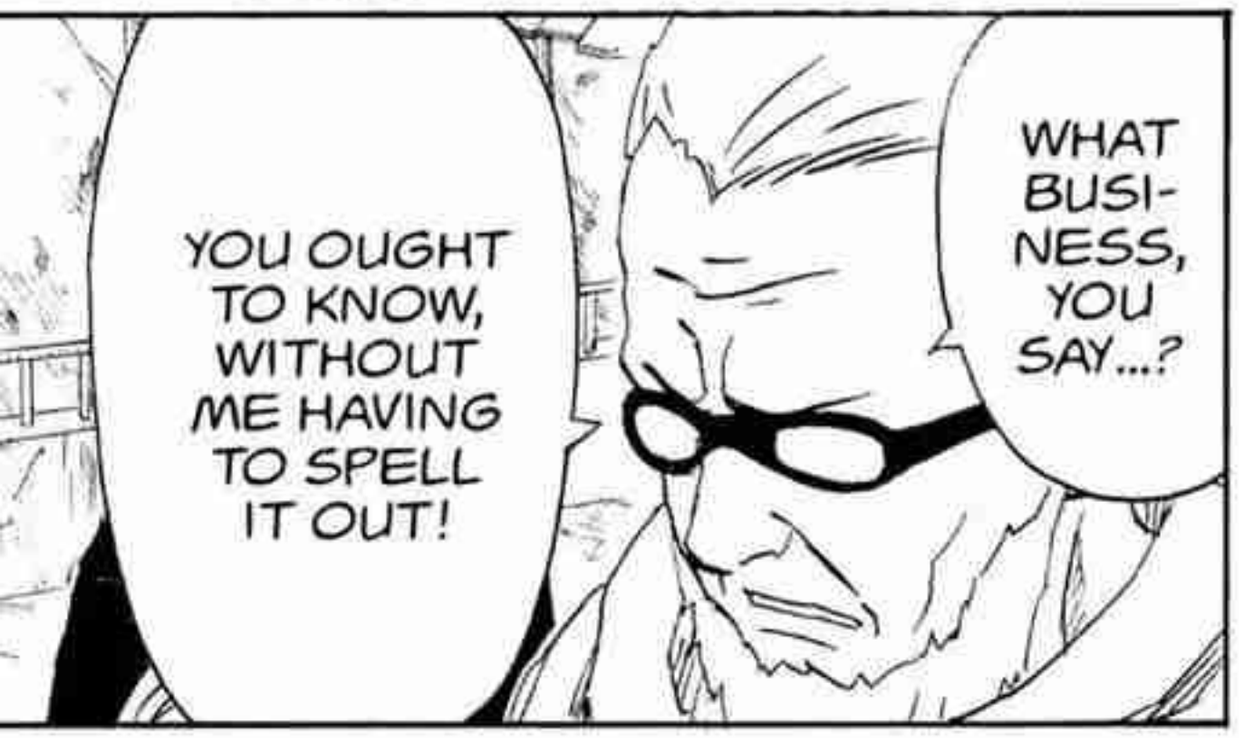

...BLAST HIM...
I SEE... SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED, HUH...

OROCHIMARU...


WE WERE CARELESS.
AFTER LORD KAZEKAGE'S ASSASSINATION, OROCHIMARU... OR PERHAPS KABUTO... ASSUMED HIS IDENTITY...

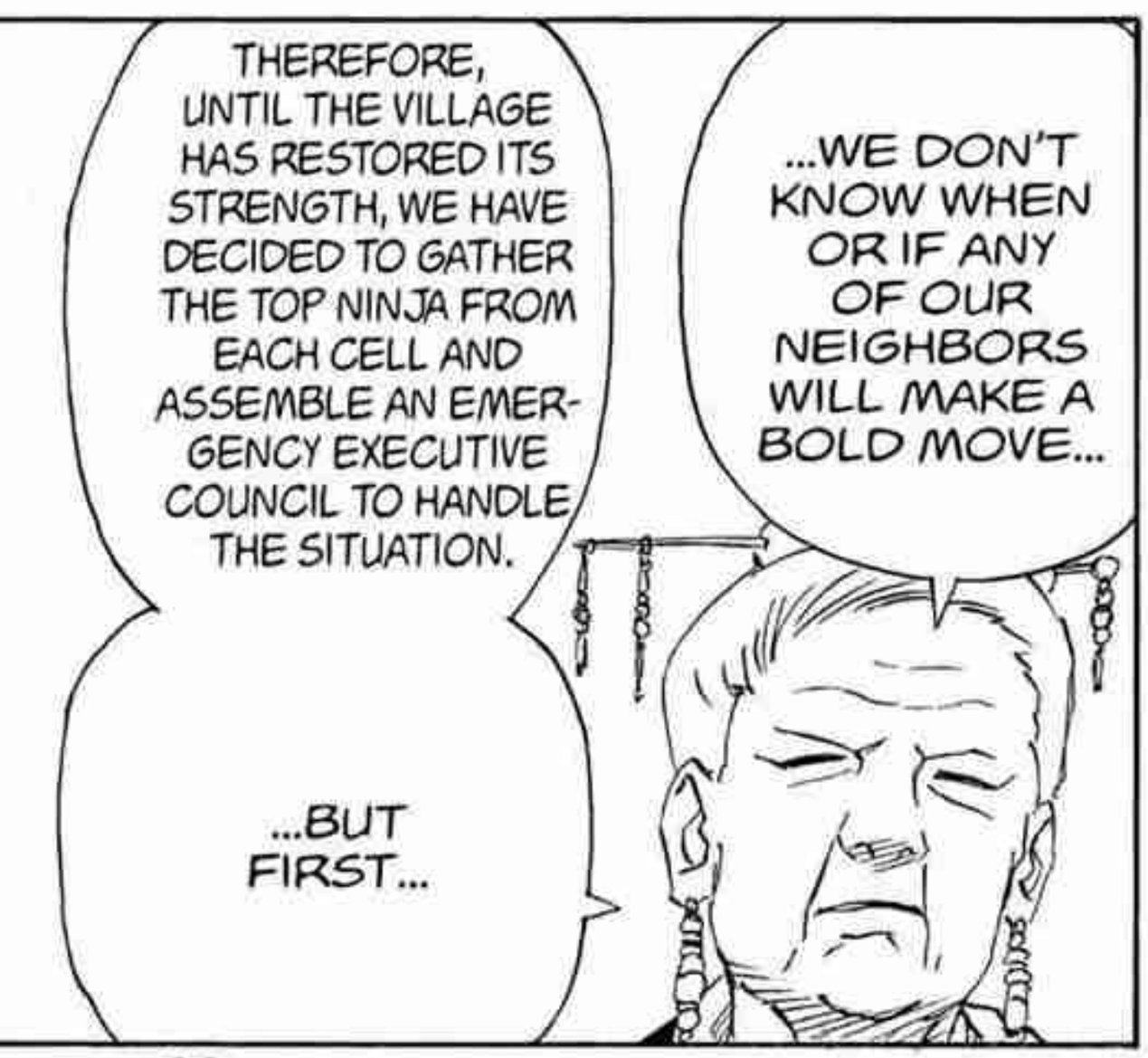

FOR KONOHA ALSO HAD FOREMOST IN MIND RECOVERY FROM THE RAVAGES OF WAR AND THE RESTORATION OF THEIR NATION'S STRENGTH.
THEY PROCLAIMED THEIR SURRENDER TO KONOHA, WHICH KONOHA GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED.
火

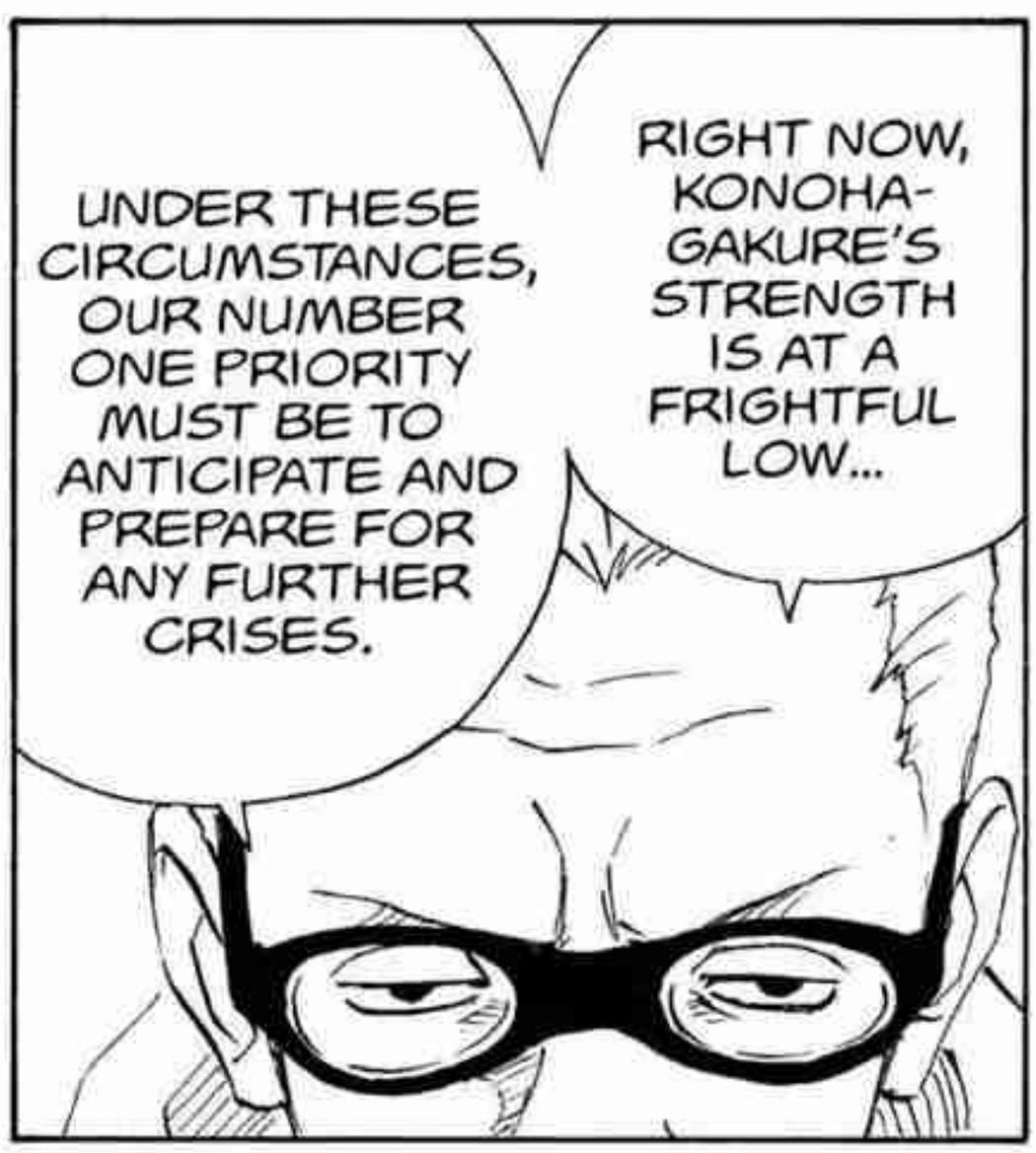
SUNAGAKURE RUSHED TO ANNOUNCE THE KAZEKAGE'S DEATH AND THAT OROCHIMARU HAD BEEN THE MASTERMIND BEHIND THE ENTIRE OPERATION.
風


YOU OUGHT TO KNOW, WITHOUT ME HAVING TO SPELL IT OUT!
WHAT BUSI-NESS, YOU SAY...?

...

...AT THIS POINT, OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH SUNAGAKURE IS NOT AN URGENT MATTER.
WHY SUCH GRIM FACES? I HEARD THE TALKS WITH SAND WENT WELL.

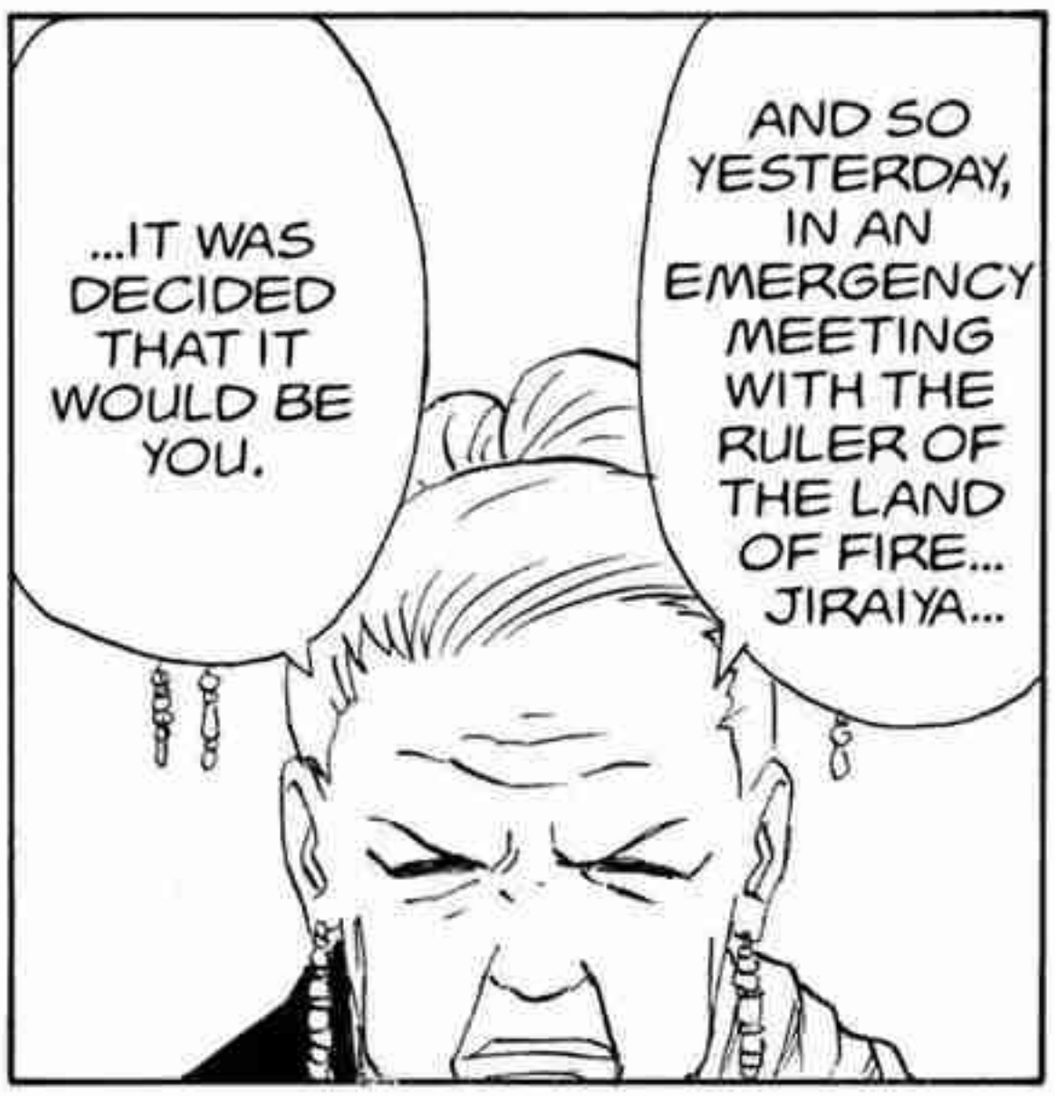

THEREFORE, UNTIL THE VILLAGE HAS RESTORED ITS STRENGTH, WE HAVE DECIDED TO GATHER THE TOP NINJA FROM EACH CELL AND ASSEMBLE AN EMER-GENCY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO HANDLE THE SITUATION.
...WE DON'T KNOW WHEN OR IF ANY OF OUR NEIGHBORS WILL MAKE A BOLD MOVE...
...BUT FIRST...


UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY MUST BE TO ANTICIPATE AND PREPARE FOR ANY FURTHER CRISES.
RIGHT NOW, KONOHA-GAKURE'S STRENGTH IS AT A FRIGHTFUL LOW...

UNDERSTAND THIS... ONE FUNDAMENTAL POLICY WE CANNOT IGNORE...

...AT THE PRESENT TIME, THERE ARE SEEDS OF TROUBLE SCATTERED ALL ABOUT...

OROCHI-MARU ISN'T OUR ONLY PROBLEM.



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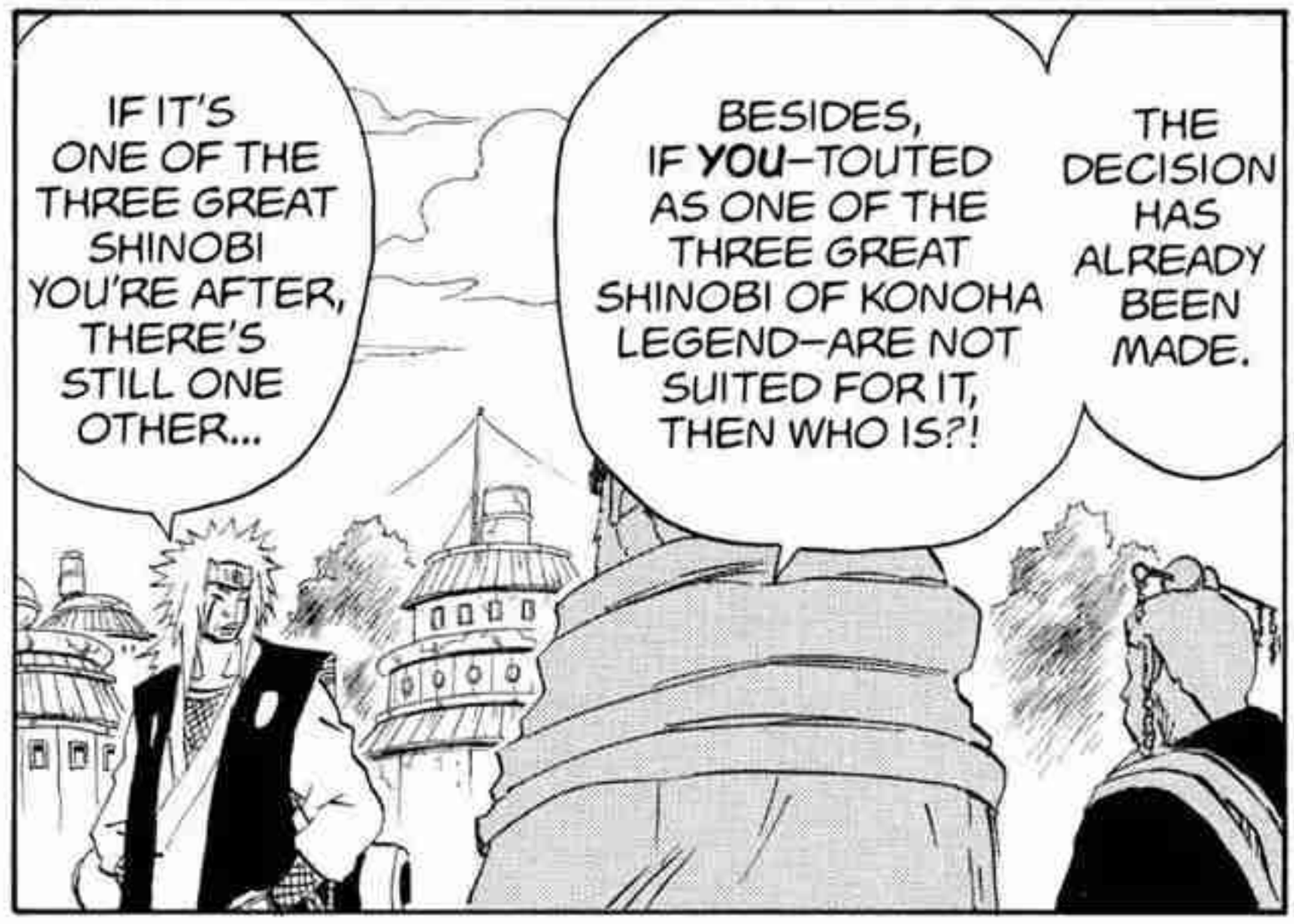
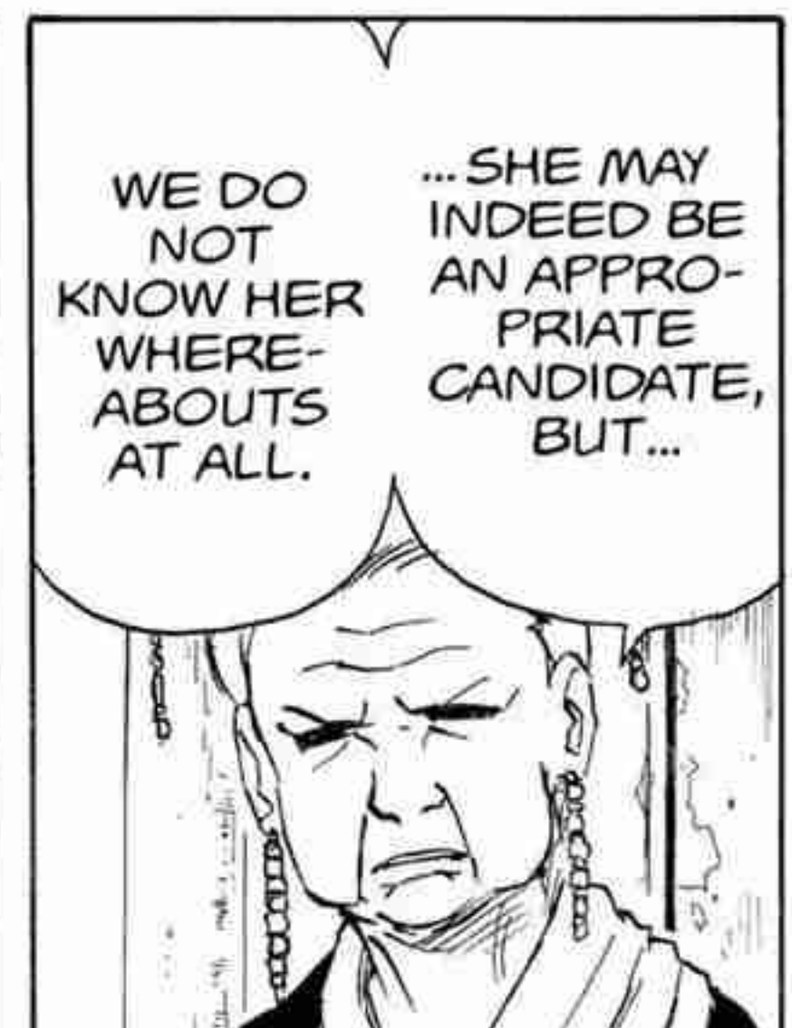

IF IT'S ONE OF THE THREE GREAT SHINOBI YOU'RE AFTER, THERE'S STILL ONE OTHER...
BESIDES, IF YOU—TOUTED AS ONE OF THE THREE GREAT SHINOBI OF KONOHA LEGEND—ARE NOT SUITED FOR IT, THEN WHO IS?!
THE DECISION HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE.

TSUNADE...

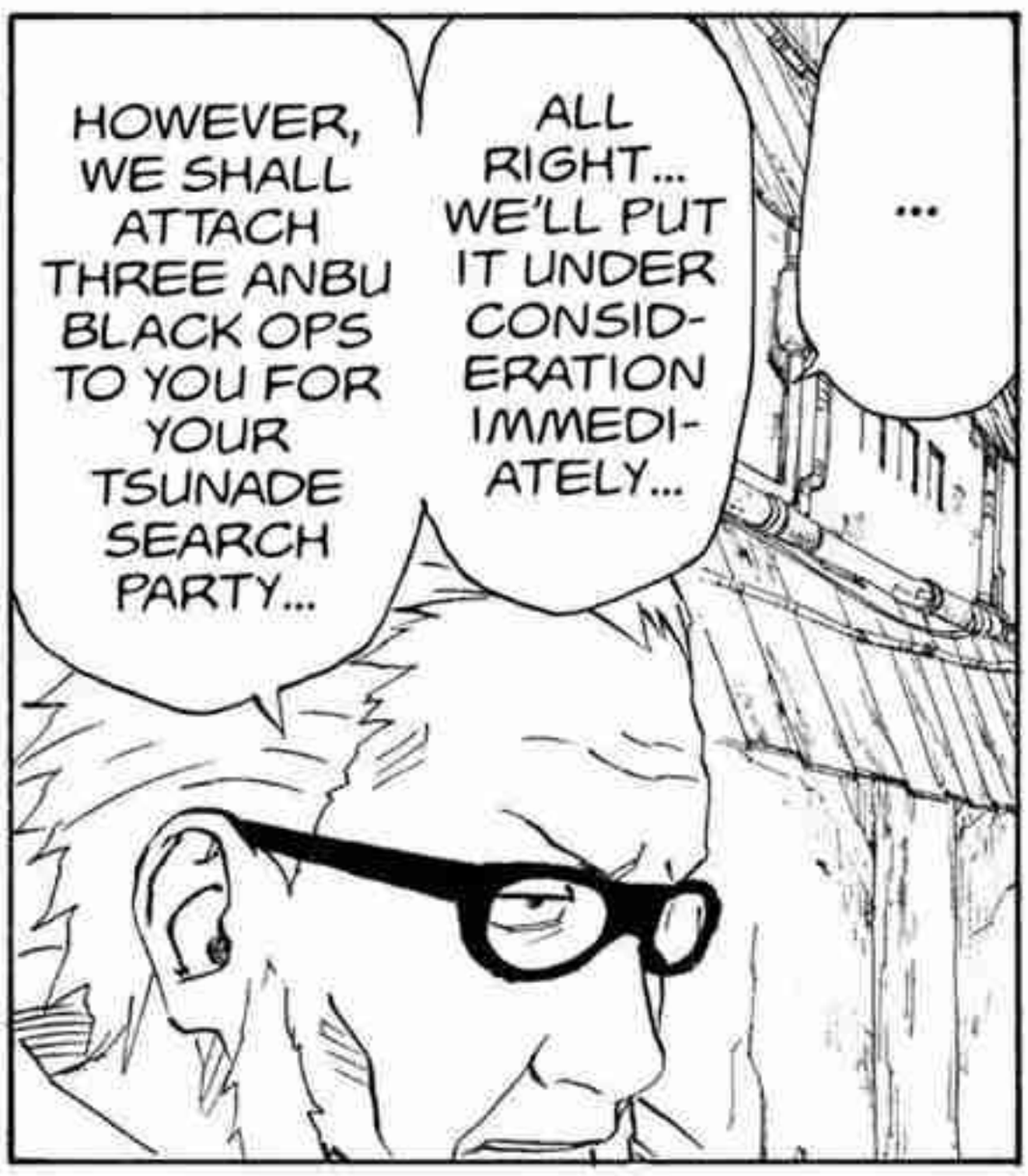
... HOWEVER ...

WOULD THAT BE ACCEPT-ABLE?
I'LL TRACK HER DOWN AND BRING HER BACK.


WE DO NOT KNOW HER WHERE-ABOUTS AT ALL.
...SHE MAY INDEED BE AN APPRO-PRIATE CANDIDATE, BUT...

THE SHARP, GO-GETTING PRINCESS TSUNADE IS MUCH BETTER SUITED FOR HOKAGE.

AS OPPOSED TO UN-WILLING, APATHETIC ME...

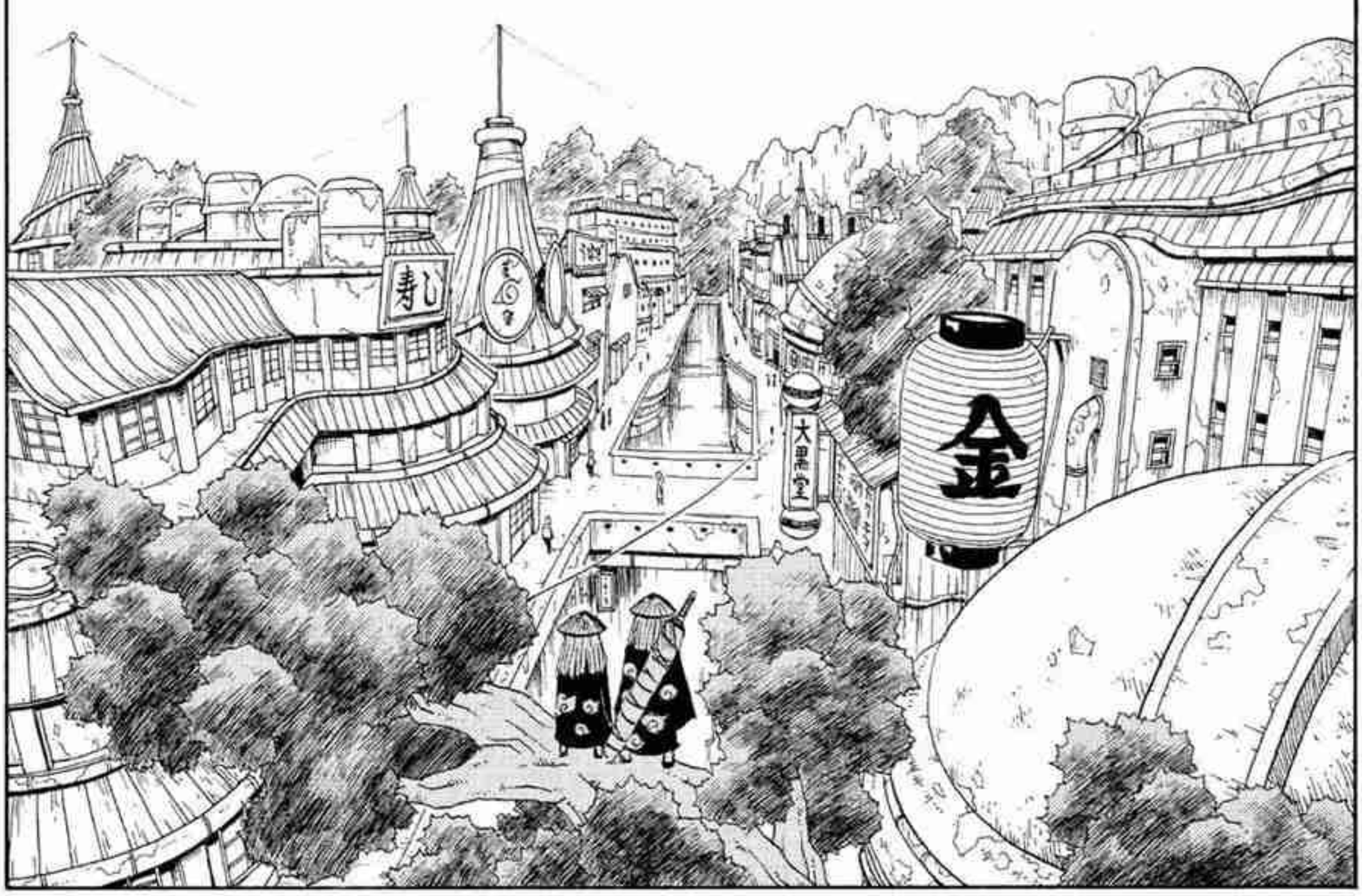


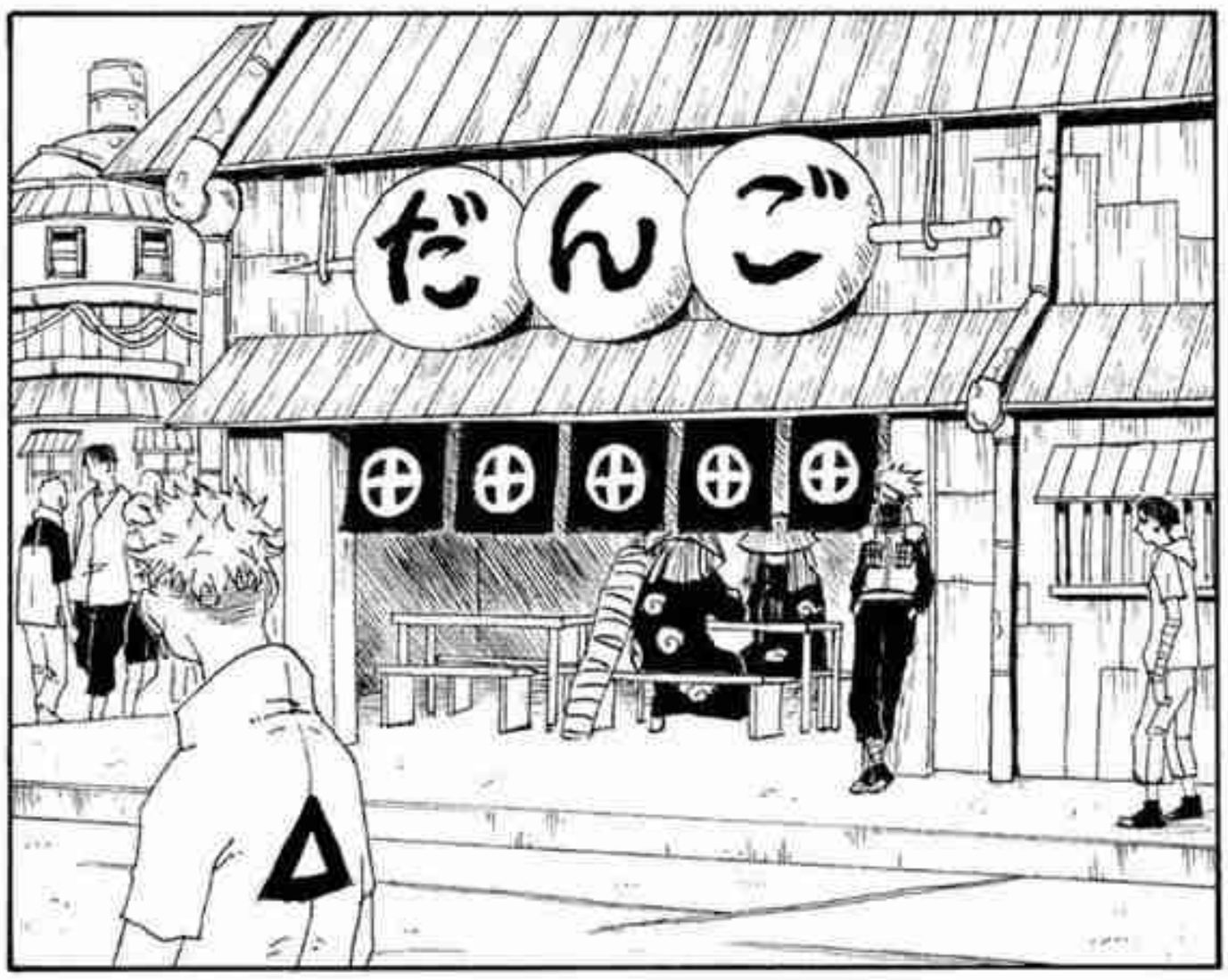
JUST... THERE IS ONE FELLOW I'D LIKE TO TAKE WITH ME ON MY TRAVELS.

I'D LIKE TO SEE WHAT HE CAN DO.

DON'T WORRY, I SWEAR I WON'T RUN AWAY.

I DON'T NEED CHAPERONES.


寿
大黒堂
金

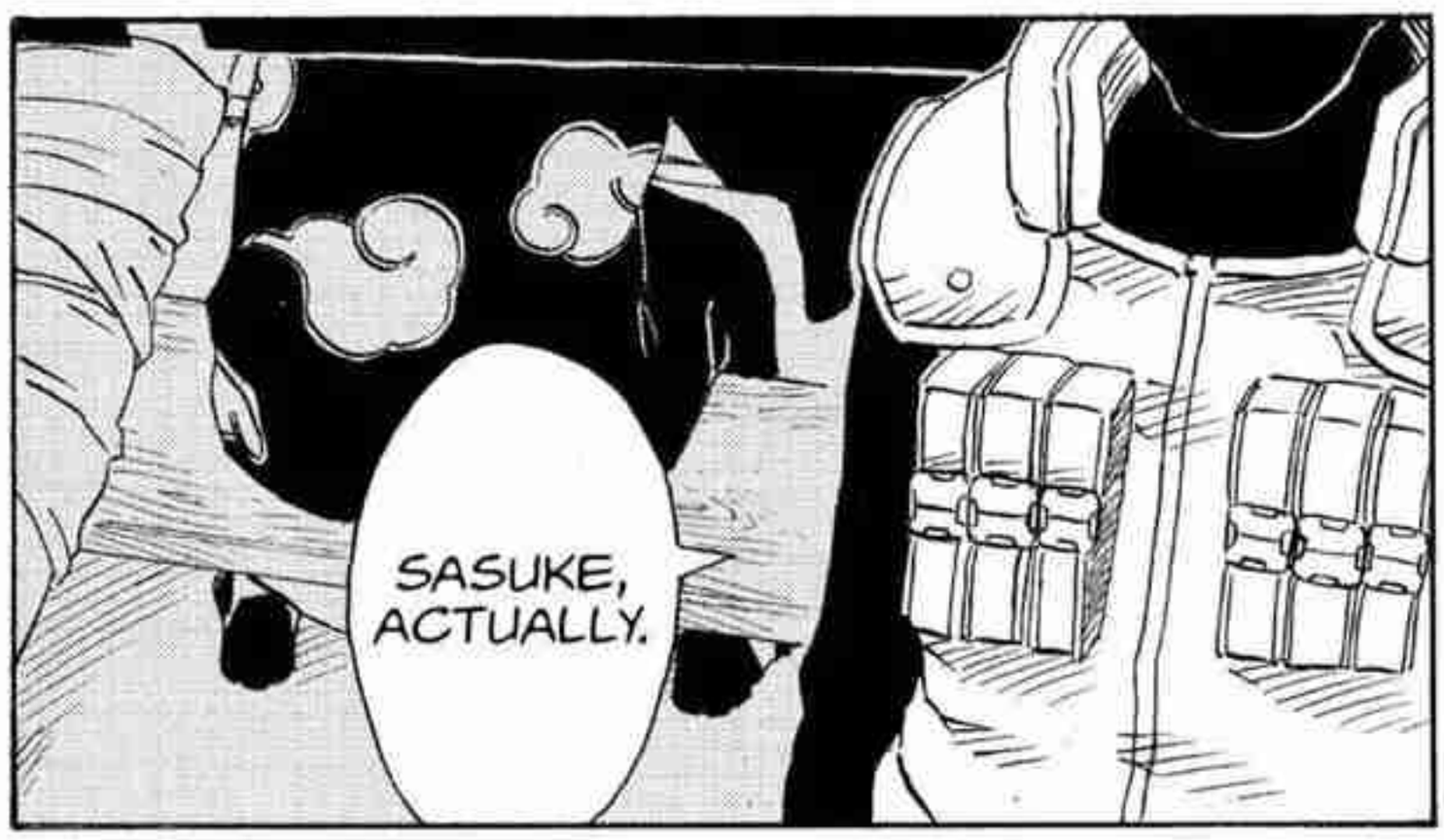

だんご

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU LAST RETURNED HOME, RIGHT...? WELL, SHALL WE HAVE SOME TEA BEFORE WE GO LOOKING FOR WHAT WE SEEK...?
...YEAH... SURE...

FOOL. ANKO ASKED ME TO BUY HER SOME DANGO.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T LIKE SWEETS...

YO! HEY THERE, YOU TWO... YOU'RE SO CHUMMY...
ARE YOU ON A DATE?

!


SASUKE, ACTUALLY.

WELL... I CAME TO BUY SOME-THING TO PUT ON A GRAVE, SO I FIGURED I'D JUST MEET UP WITH SOMEONE HERE WHILE I WAS AT IT.

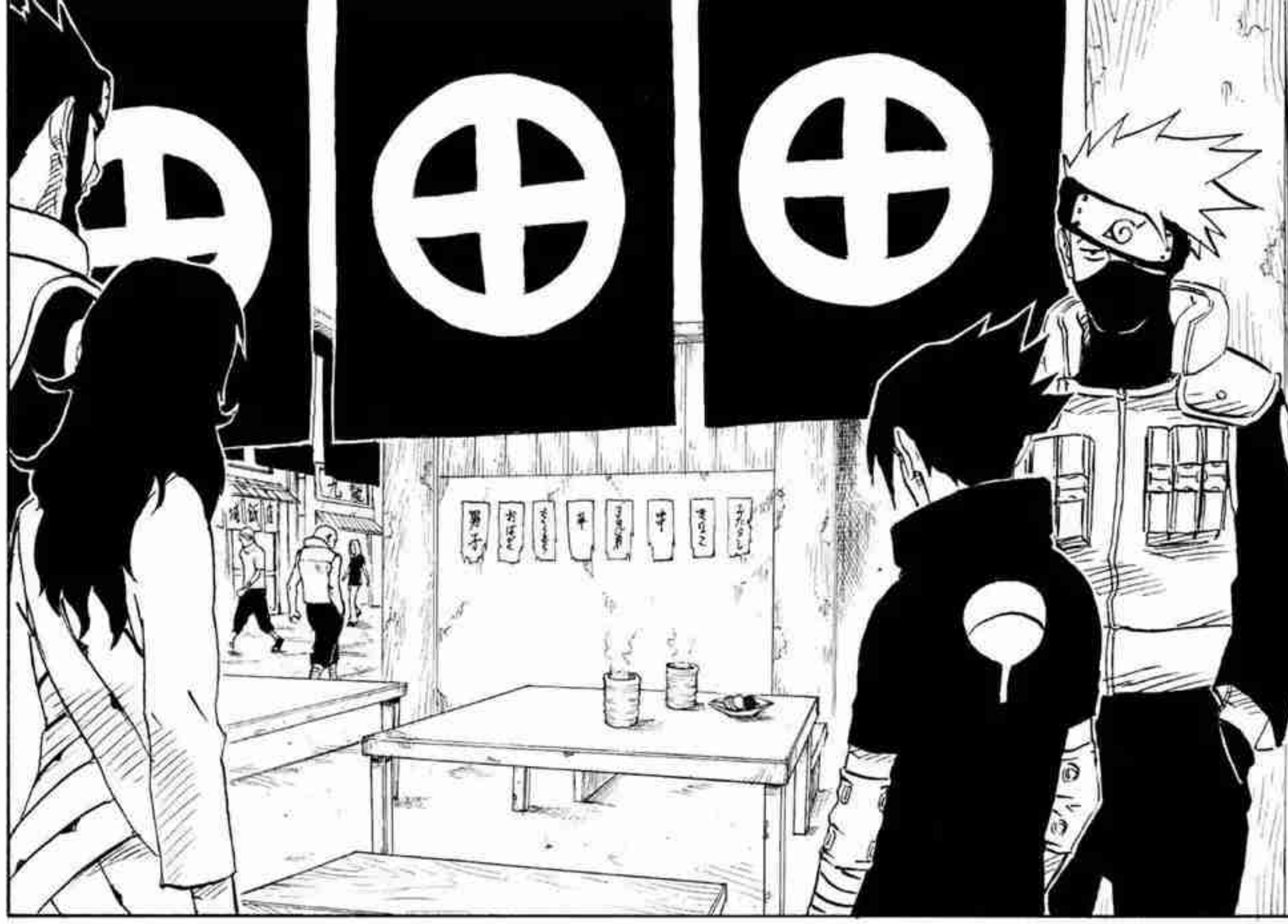
...

CLUNK

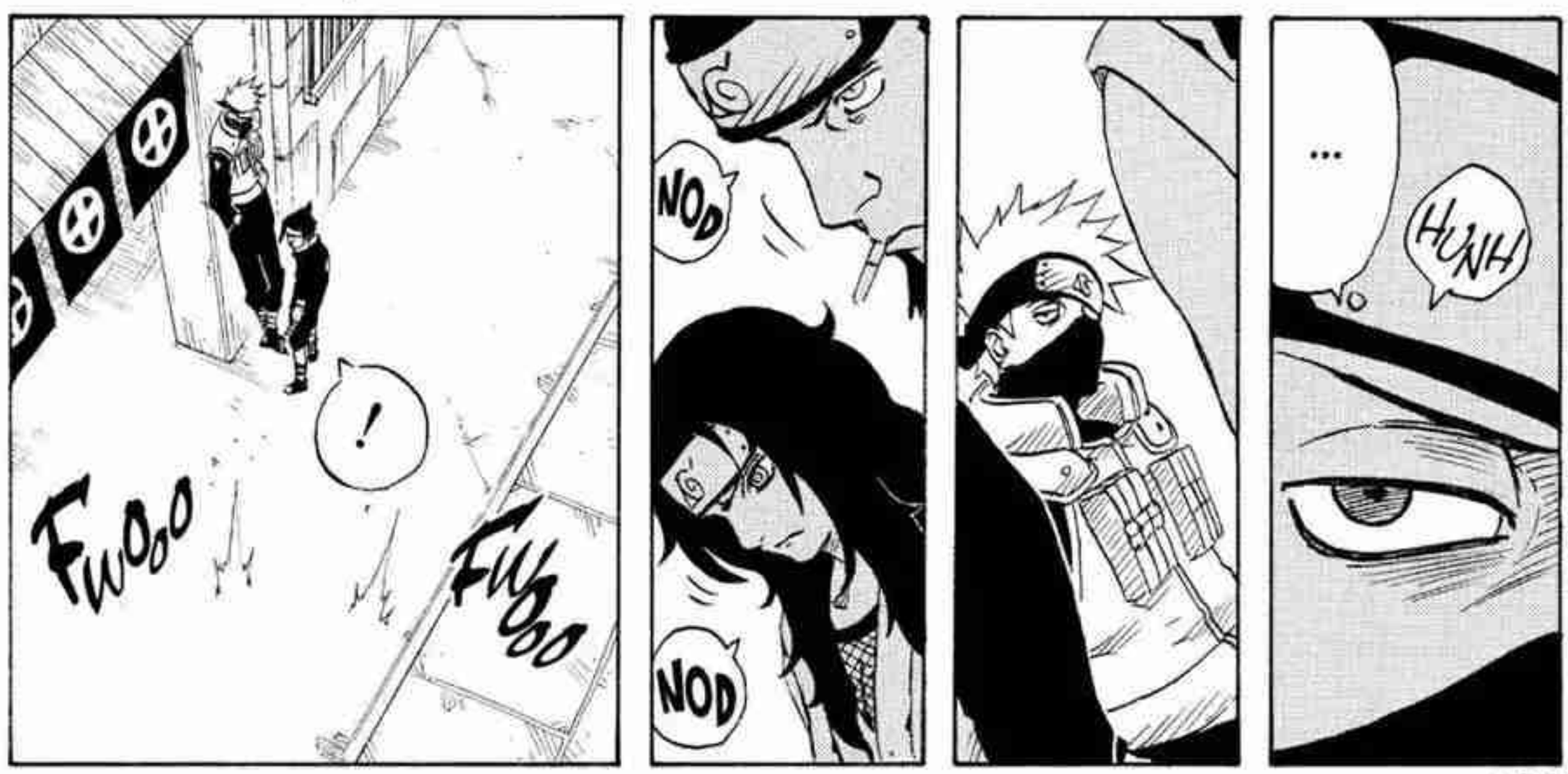
WHOA, KAKASHI... YOU SHOWED UP BEFORE ME?
SHF
TMP
TMP
WELL! I CAN BE ON TIME, ONCE IN A WHILE...

!

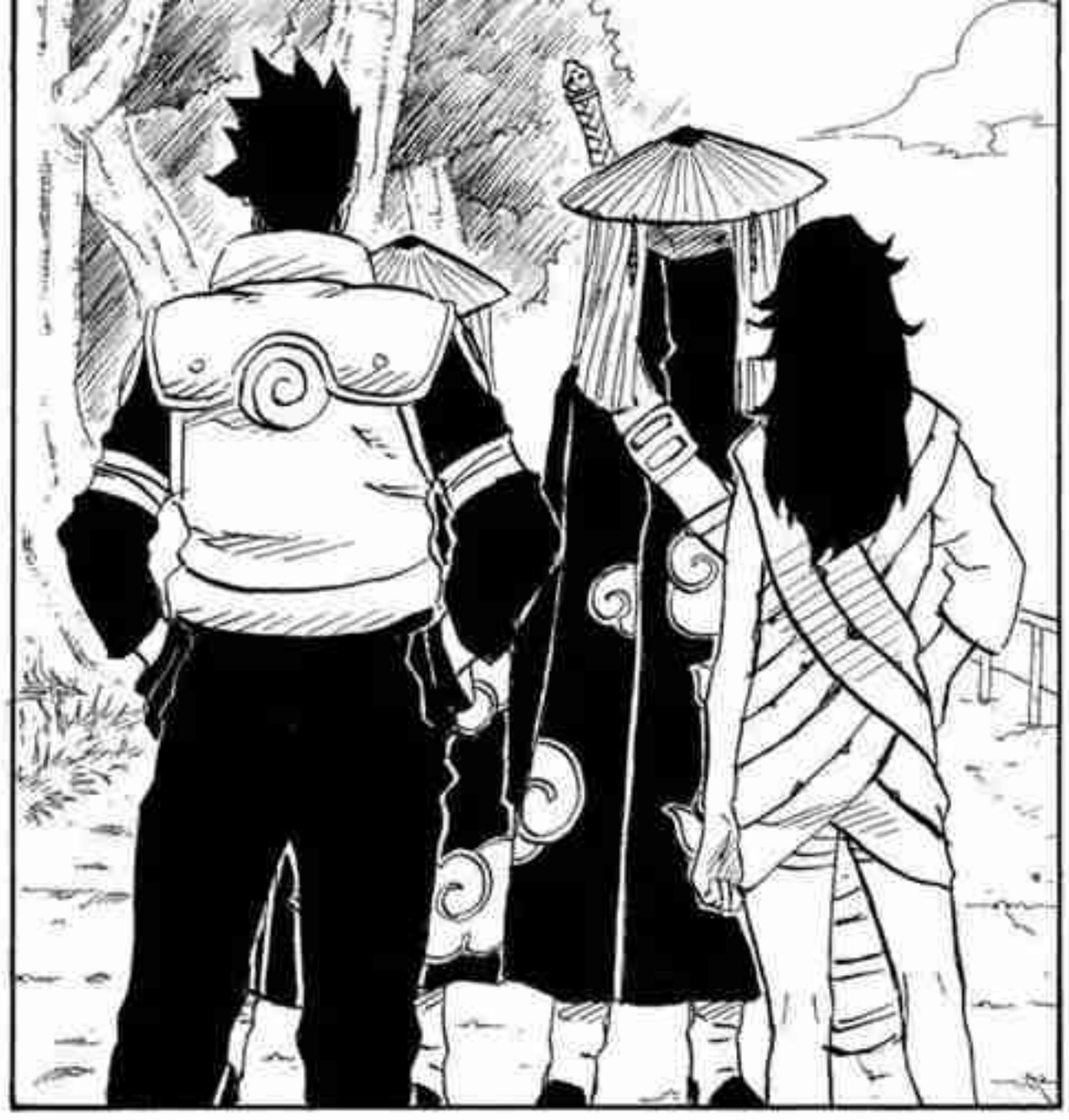
...
THAT'S A RARE SIGHT, FOR **YOU** TO BE WAITING FOR SOMEONE...



OH... REALLY.
I DON'T LIKE NATTO OR SWEET THINGS.


FWOOO
!
FWOOO
NOD
NOD
...
HUNH

IT'S JUST AS I HAD HEARD... YOU REALLY DO EAT NOTHING BUT RAMEN, HUH...
!
ZAP
GRIN GRIN
SSSLURP
VWO! PFERFY PFAGE!



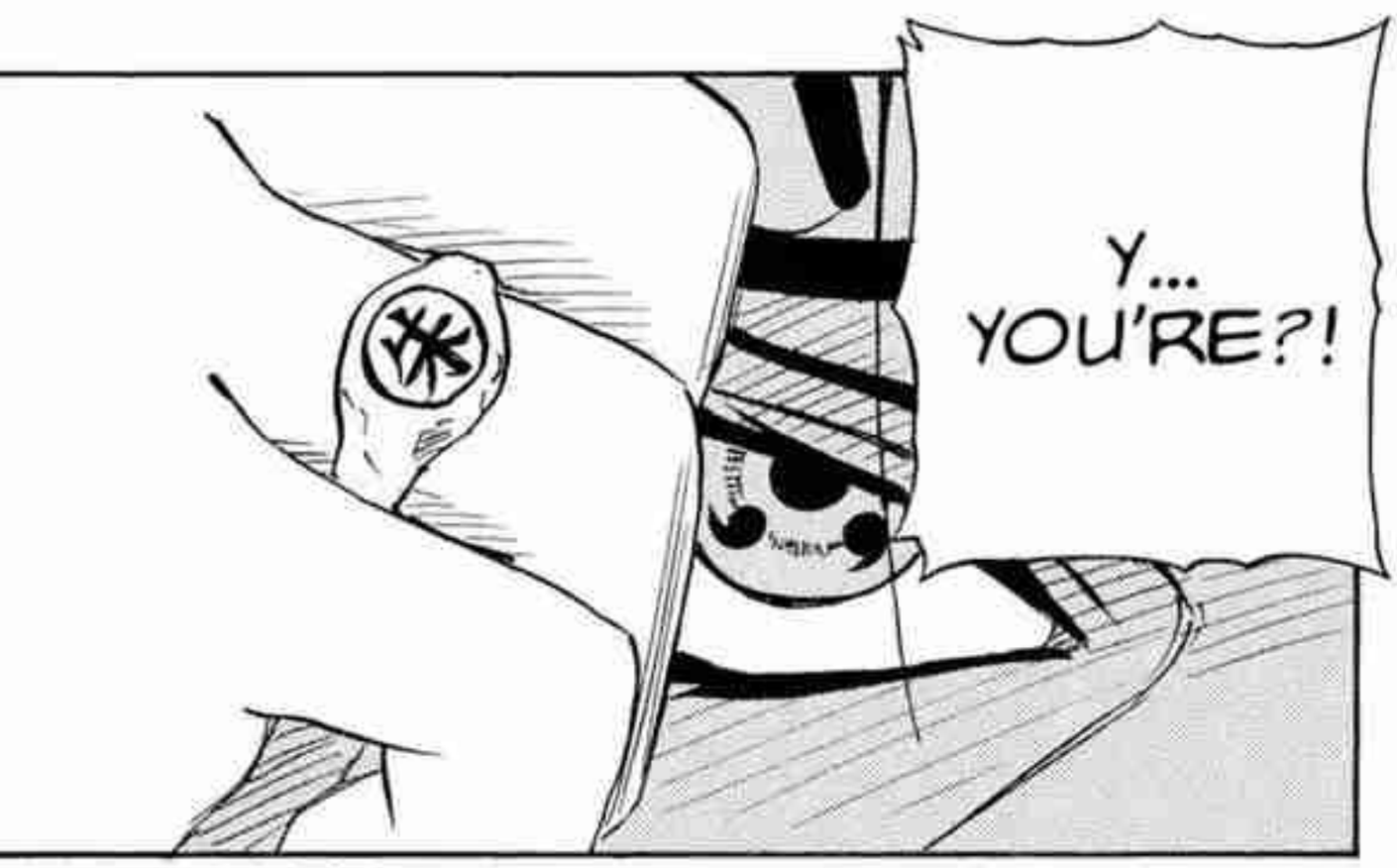
CRUNCH

IT'S BEEN SO LONG...
ASUMA... KURENAI...

SHF

YOU'RE NOT FROM THIS VILLAGE...
WHAT'S YOUR BUSINESS HERE...?

YOU COULD ONLY KNOW OUR NAMES...
...IF YOU WERE SHINOBI OF THIS VILLAGE.


Y... YOU'RE?!

!!

THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 24 CHAPTER 2

MY FRIEND TOLD ME, "USUTA SENSEI WAS CONTACTED BY THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT ABOUT ONE WEEK AGO"!

"WHAT!" MEANS WHAT? AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT I HAVEN'T BEEN CONTACTED YET, THEN!? DON'T TELL ME I DIDN'T MAKE IT?!! I FELT DEFLATED, TOOK OFF FROM SCHOOL, GOT SULKY, AND PLAYED VIDEO GAMES. HOWEVER, WHILE I WAS PLAYING VIDEO GAMES, IN THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART... BUT IF WHOEVER WON IS CONTACTED TOO EARLY AND OUT OF BLIND ECSTASY POSTS HIS VICTORY ON THE INTERNET, EVERYONE WILL KNOW THE RESULT BEFORE IT'S ANNOUNCED IN *JUMP*! IF THAT WERE TO HAPPEN, THAT WOULD BE BAD! IT'S JUST NOT KOSHER! THAT'S PROBABLY WHY THEY DON'T CONTACT YOU UNTIL THAT DAY OR AT THE EARLIEST THE DAY BEFORE *JUMP* HITS THE BOOKSTORES! SURELY! I KEPT SILENTLY MAKING SUCH EXCUSES TO MYSELF AND PRAYED THAT I WOULD HEAR FROM THEM.

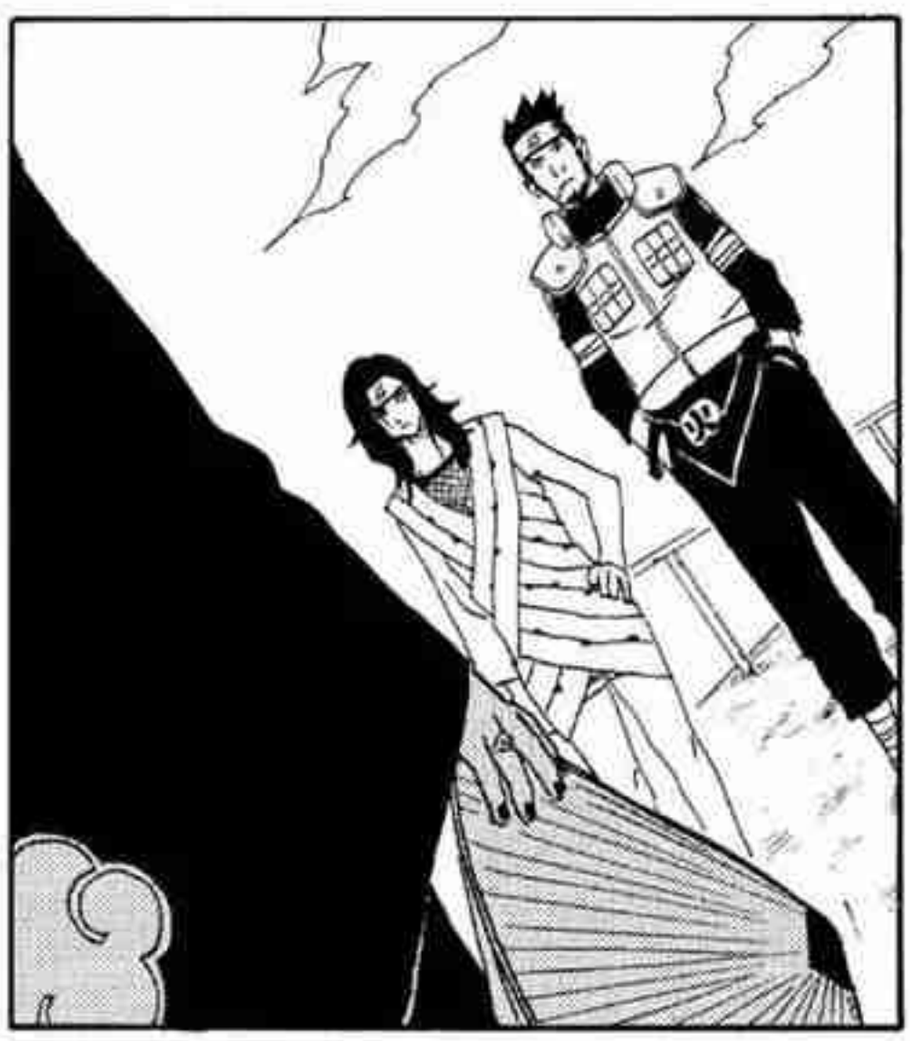
AND THEN, IT WAS FINALLY THE DAY BEFORE THE ANNOUNCEMENT! I ENDED UP STAYING HOME THE WHOLE DAY, THINKING THAT I MIGHT GET A CALL, BUT THE DAY ENDED WITHOUT ANY WORD. THAT NIGHT, I HAD TROUBLE FALLING ASLEEP, STAYING UP UNTIL MIDNIGHT ALL ANXIOUS. AND THEN, JUST AS I STARTED FEELING MYSELF NOD OFF... THE PHONE RANG...

I PICKED THE RECEIVER UP AND PUT IT TO MY EAR. MY HEART FELT LIKE IT WAS GOING TO BURST! "HELLO... THIS IS KISHIMOTO." THEN... "HELLO, THIS IS *WEEKLY SHONEN JUMP* CALLING..." "...YES?!" I IMMEDIATELY BLURTED... "WE WOULD LIKE TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR "KARAKURI" HAS BEEN SELECTED AS THIS ROUND'S WINNER! CONGRATULATIONS!" WHEN I HEARD THAT, I SERIOUSLY THOUGHT MY HEART HAD BURST, IT **POUNDED!** SO HARD, AND THEN I WOKE UP...

...IT HAD ALL BEEN A DREAM. I'M DEAD SERIOUS!! I WAS SO BLUE ONCE I WAS COMPLETELY AWAKE!

AND THEN, FINALLY, ON THE ACTUAL MORNING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT DAY, "I WISH THAT DREAM WAS A PORTENT"... I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, AS I HEADED TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE. I HAD ALREADY RESIGNED MYSELF TO THE WORST. I MAY NOT HAVE MADE IT... I WANTED TO JUST KNOW THE RESULT AND GET IT OVER WITH AND YET I DIDN'T... WITH THAT CONFLICTED FEELING, I ENTERED THE CONVENIENCE STORE, WHERE A MOUNTAINOUS PILE OF *WEEKLY SHONEN JUMP* LAY STACKED RIGHT NEXT TO THE REGISTER. I DON'T THINK MY HEART EVER POUNDED THAT HARD. I FELT LIKE IT WAS GOING TO JUMP OUT OF MY THROAT.

Number 141: Uchiha Itachi!!



Number 141:
Uchiha Itachi!!
...
UCHIHA ITACHI.

PLEASED TO MEET YOU, AND HOPE TO GET TO KNOW YOU LATER.

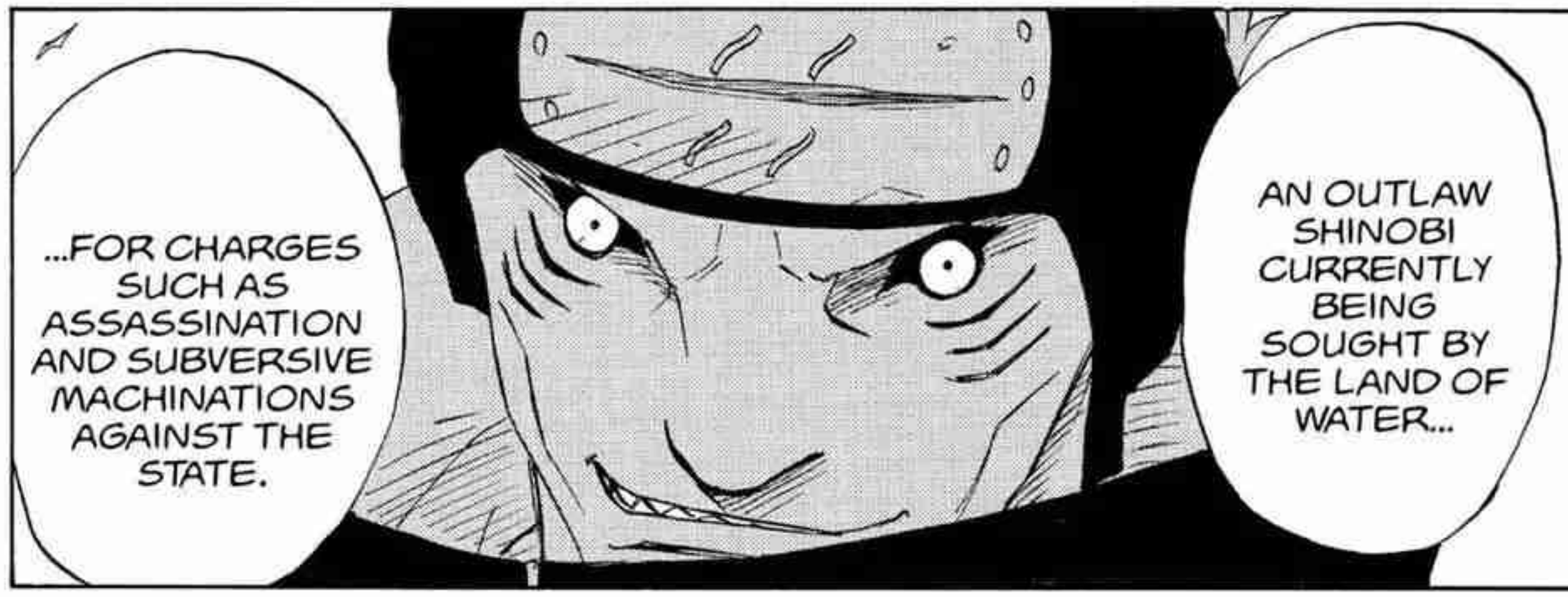
I AM HOSHIGAKI KISAME.

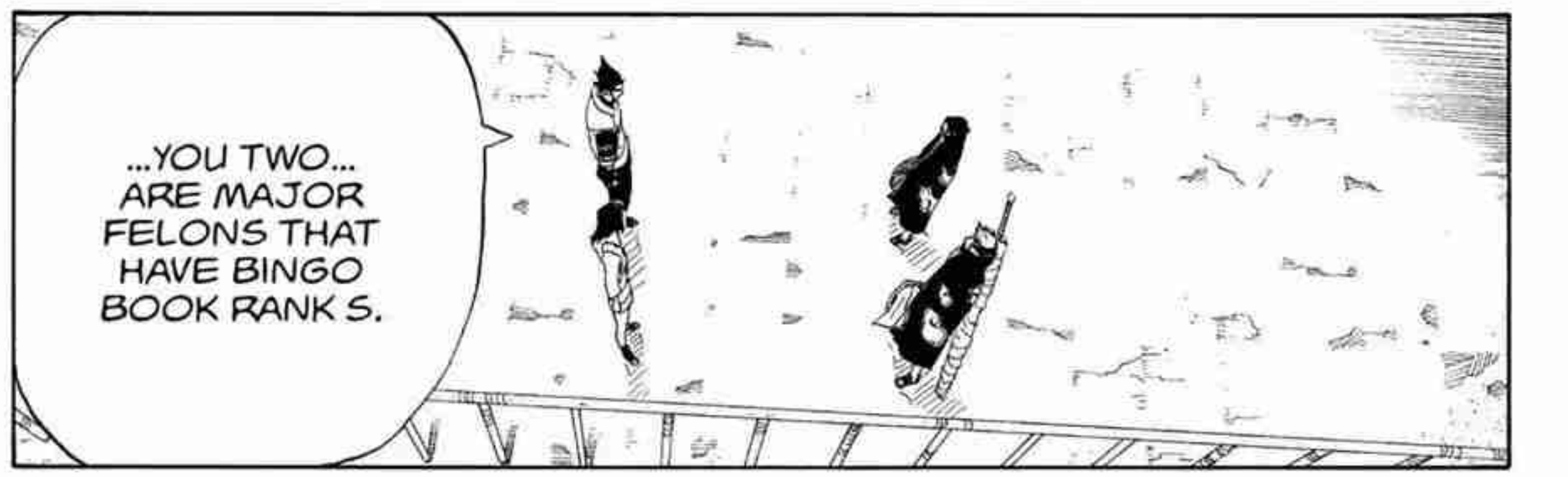
I'M GONNA TAKE YOU DOWN RIGHT NOW!

THERE'S NO LATER.

HOSHIGAKI KISAME, A FORMER KIRIGAKURE SHINOBI...
I'VE HEARD OF YOU...

...ITACHI... IT SEEMS THAT YOU TOO ARE RATHER DETESTED IN YOUR HOME VILLAGE.


...FOR CHARGES SUCH AS ASSASSINATION AND SUBVERSIVE MACHINATIONS AGAINST THE STATE.
AN OUTLAW SHINOBI CURRENTLY BEING SOUGHT BY THE LAND OF WATER...


...YOU TWO... ARE MAJOR FELONS THAT HAVE BINGO BOOK RANK S.

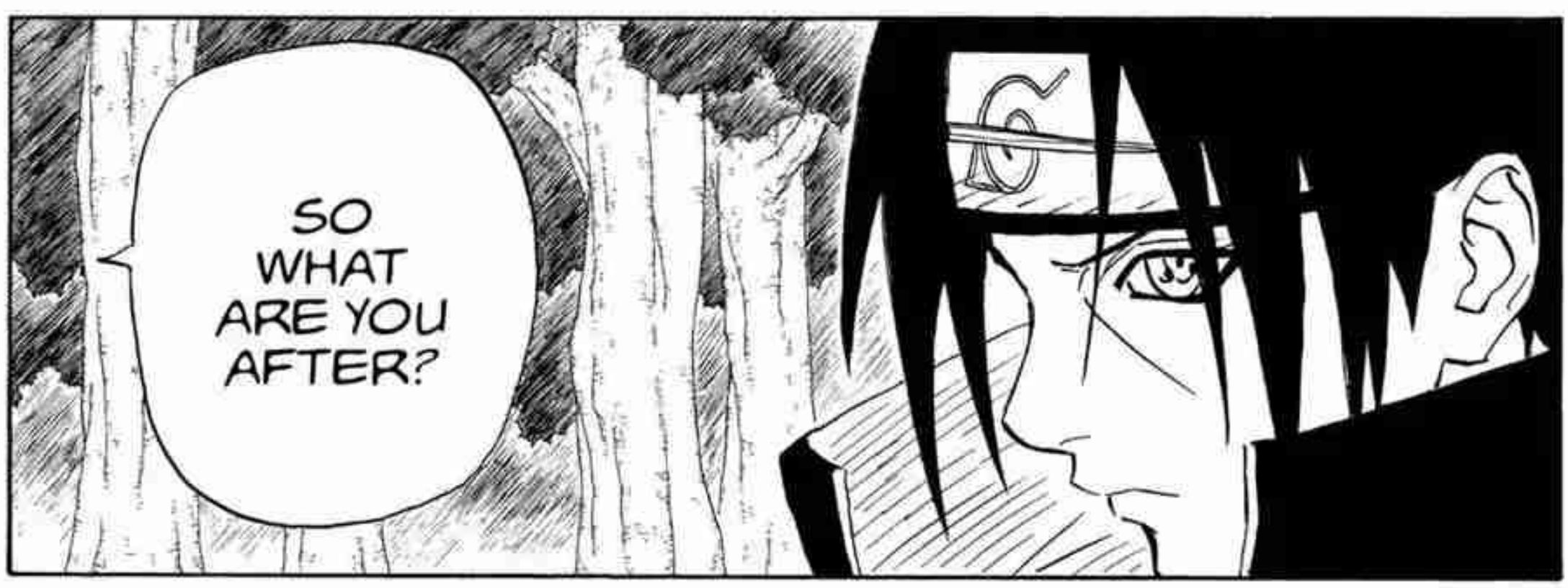
YOU'VE GOT GUTS TO STEP FOOT IN THIS VILLAGE AGAIN AFTER WHAT YOU DID...
ITACHI ...

...

FOR SOMEONE WHO'S COMMITTED PARRICIDE, THAT'S AN ODD THING TO SAY.
BESIDES ...

...ASUMA, KURENAI...
PLEASE DO NOT INTERFERE... I DON'T WANT TO KILL YOU.

...THERE'S NO WAY YOU WOULD JUST SHOW UP LIKE THIS, NONCHALANTLY...
...WEARING CLOTHES THAT DON'T LOOK RESPECTABLE, FOR ABSOLUTELY NO REASON.


SO WHAT ARE YOU AFTER?

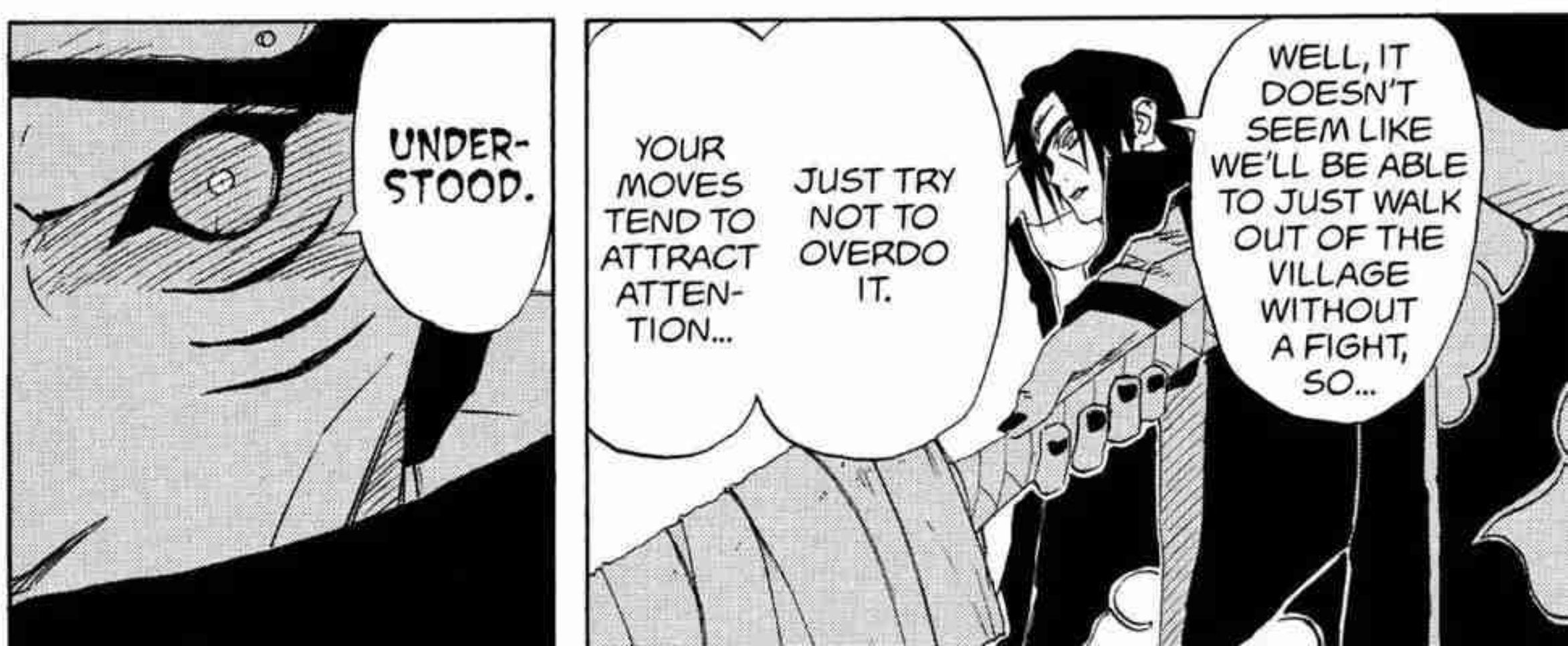
CLMP

...

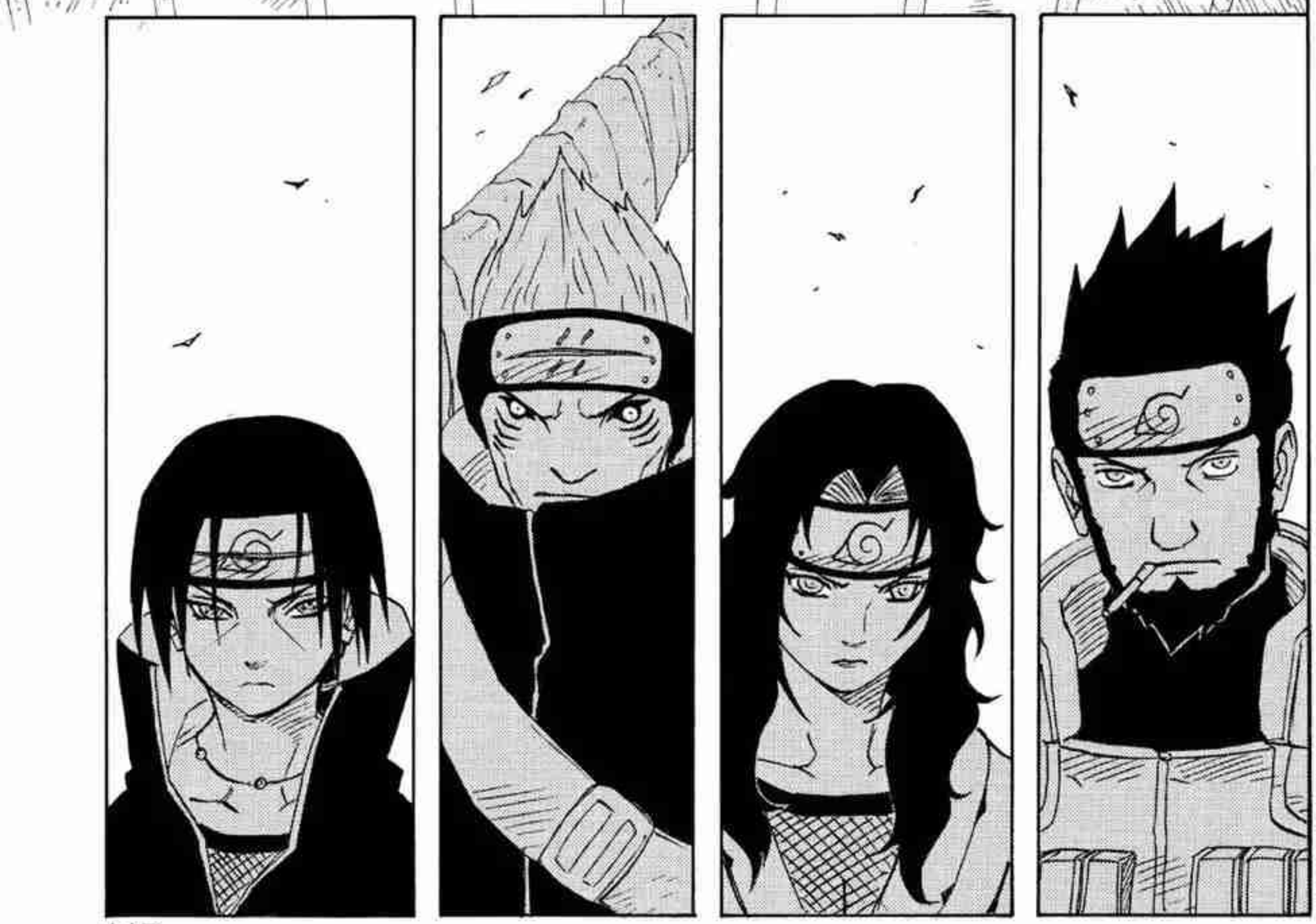
SHALL I KILL HIM?

HE BOTHERS ME.

KILLED



TAP

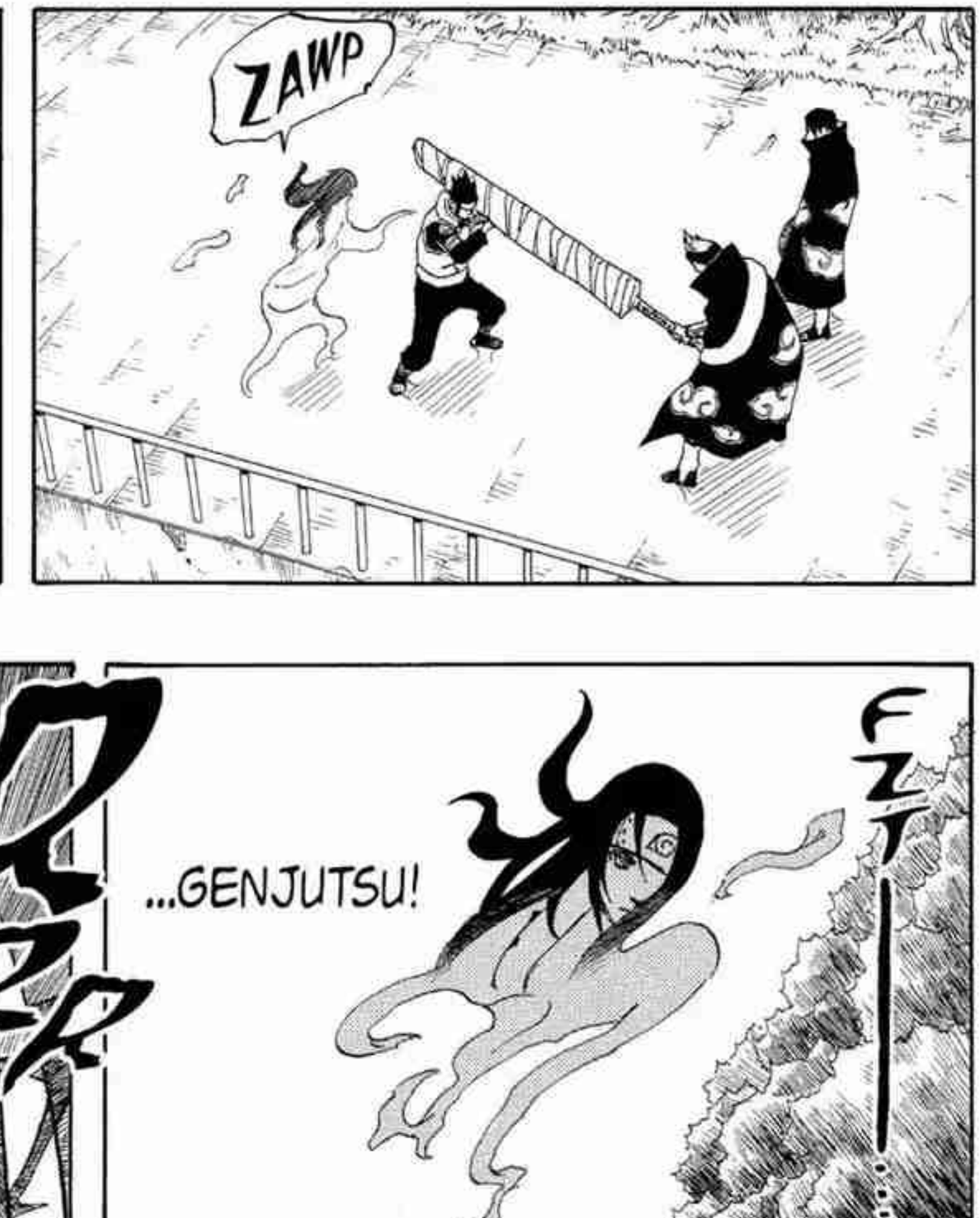


KAON
ING

...

SHWP
SHWP

THIS IS...

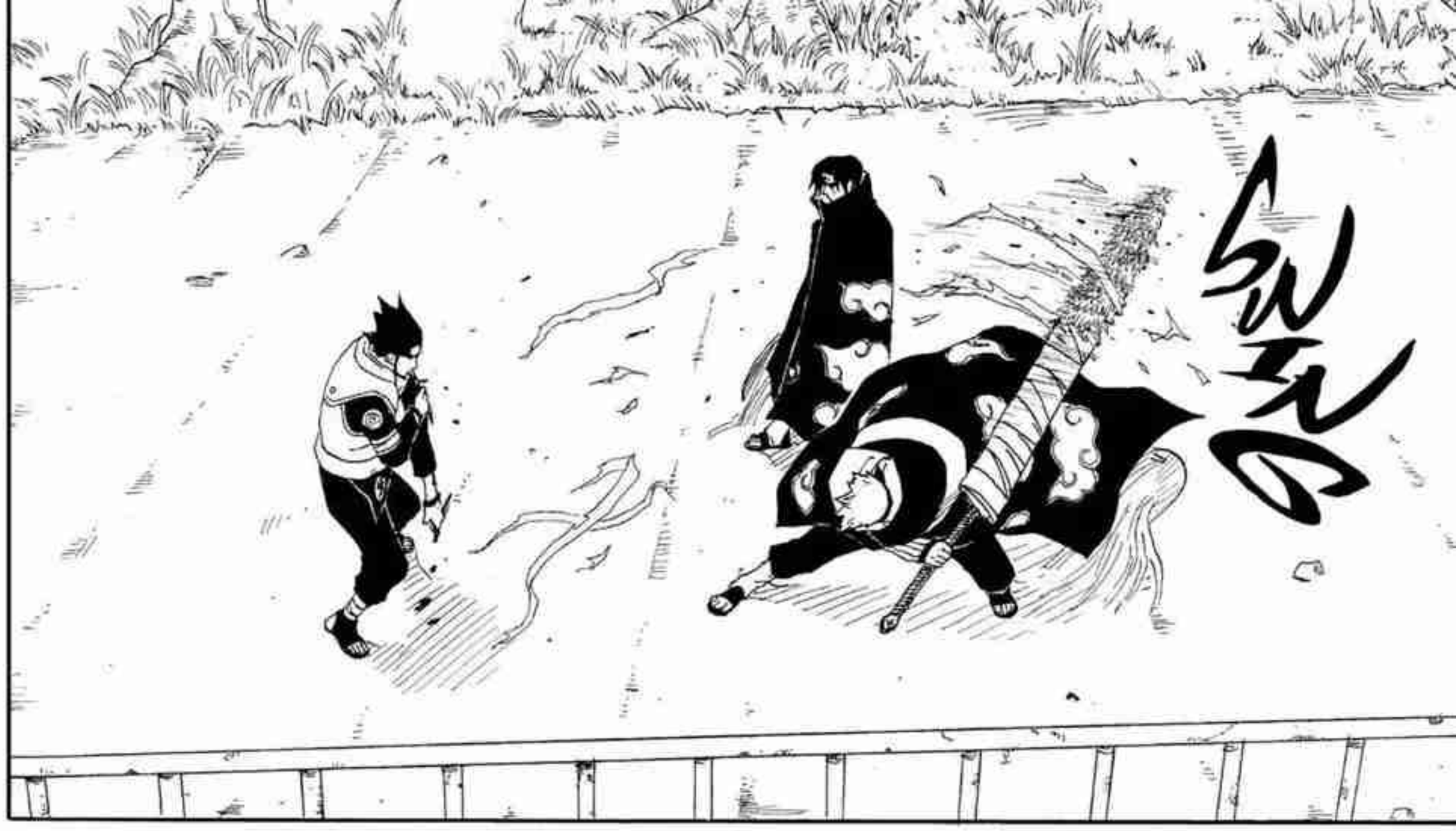

ZAWP

GRR

...GENJUTSU!
FZT

RR RRR
HE'S KEEPING ME DOWN WITH JUST THE TIP OF HIS BLADE... | SUCH STRENGTH!
TAP
MY LONG SWORD IS CALLED SAMEHADA! IT MEANS SHARKSKIN! IT DOESN'T SLICE...
...!!
SPIRT

YAAAA!!!
GAH!
...!!
SPLISH
IT CUTS YOU TO RIBBONS!!


SWISH

!

KURENAI... WHAT'S TAKING YOU SO LONG?
...

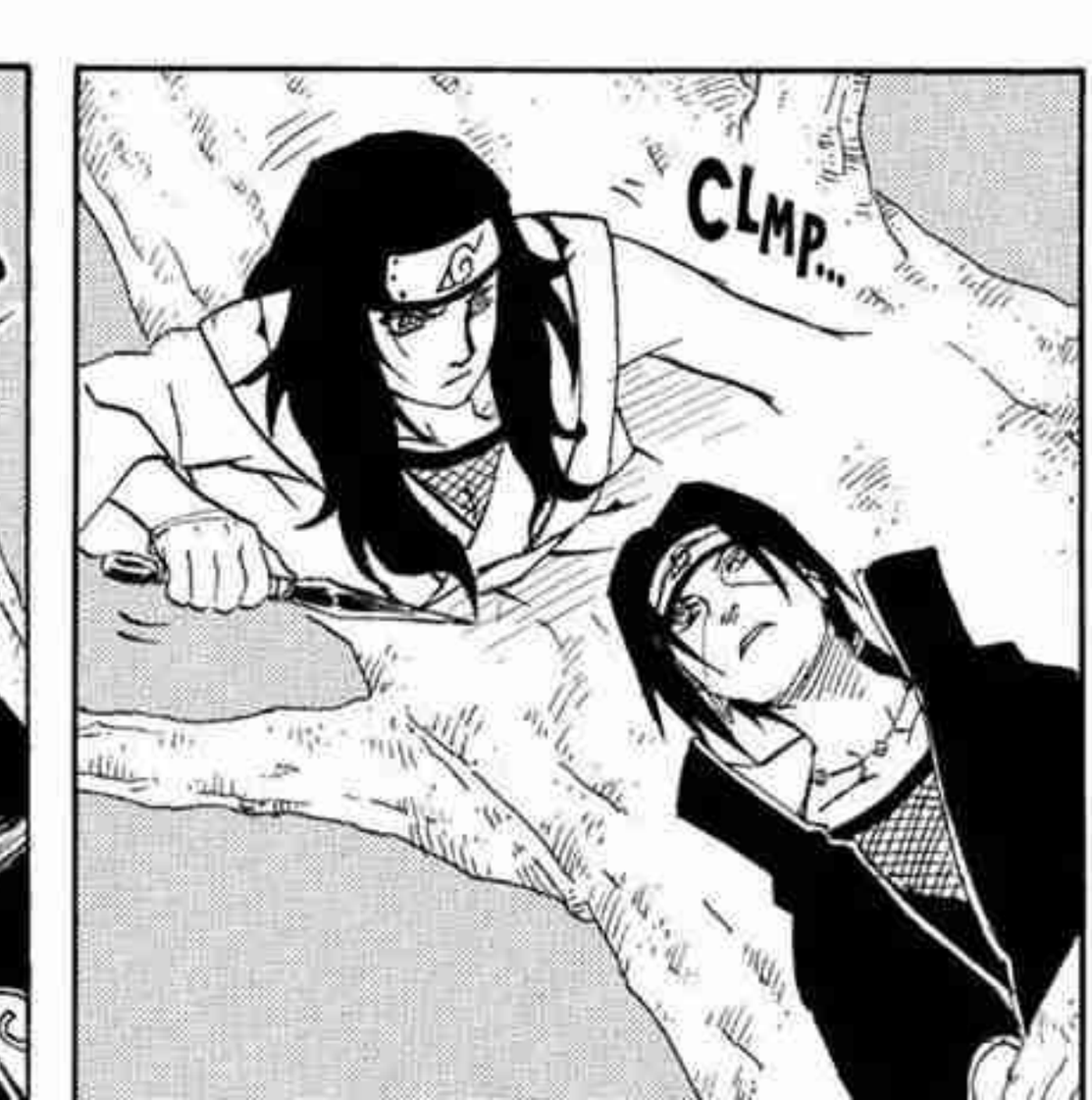
WHIPP

SSSINK

CHAK

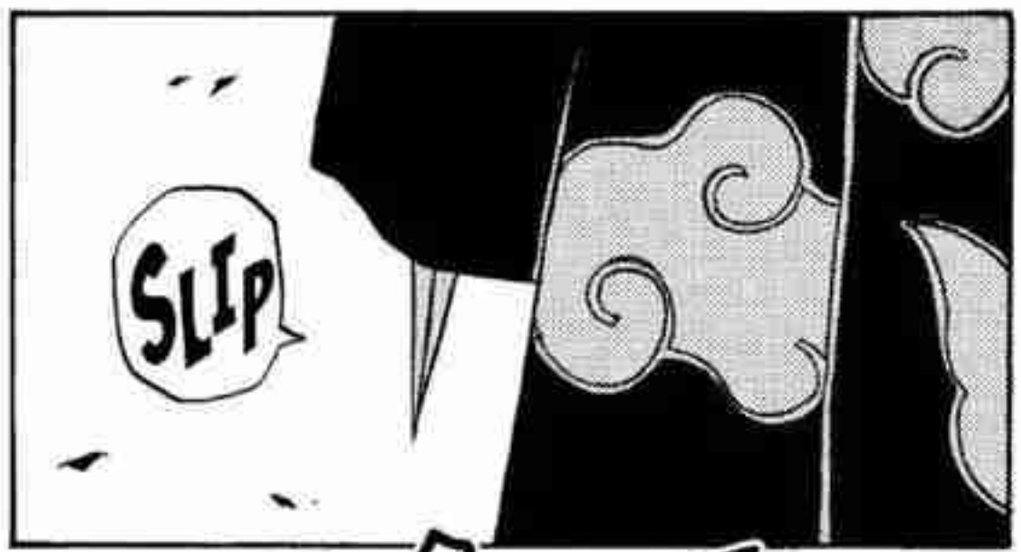
FOOSH

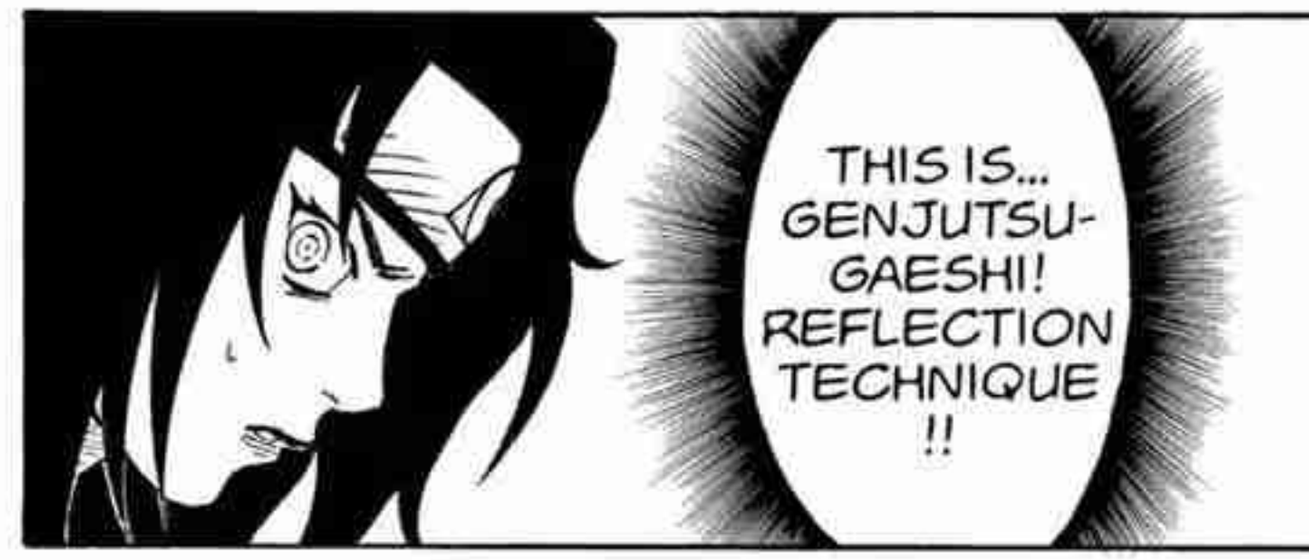
YOU'RE FINISHED.
SHAAF


CLMP...

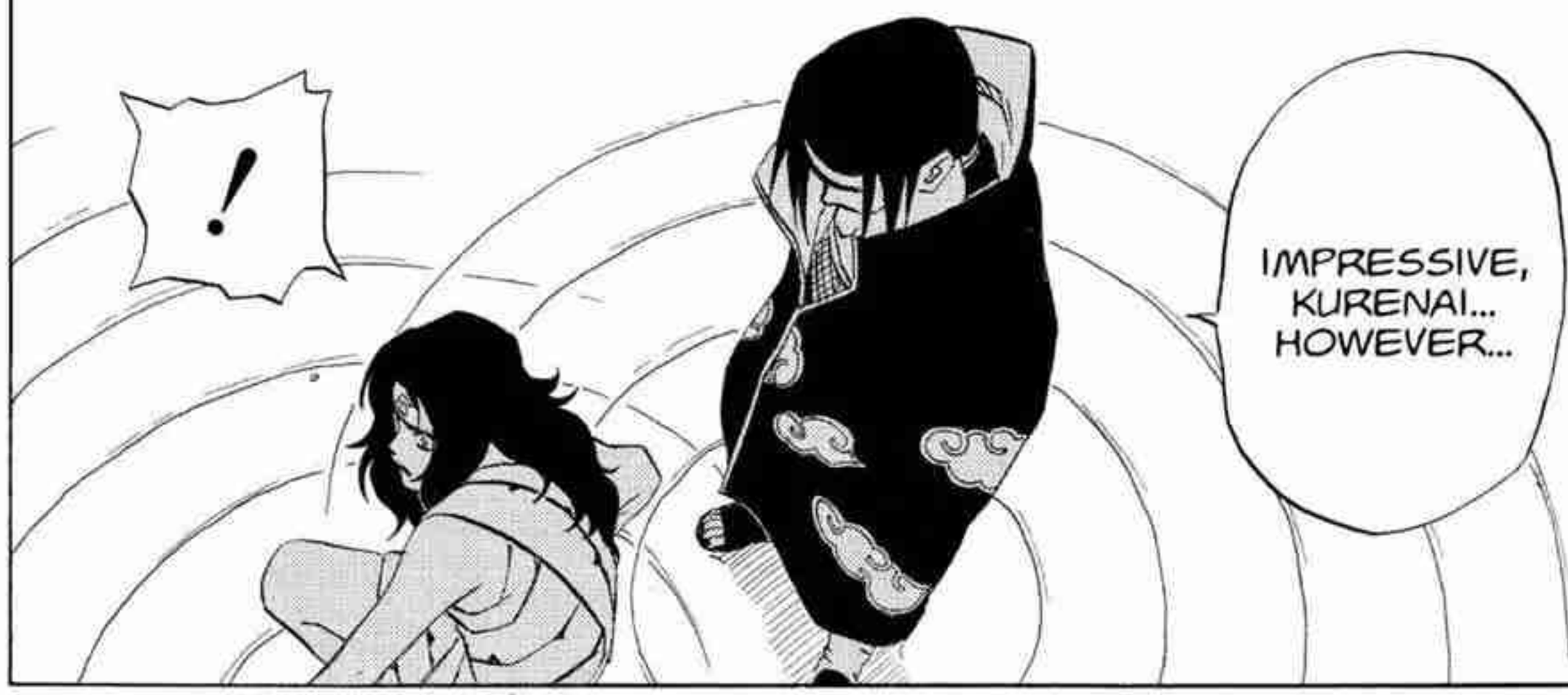
!!

A WEAK GENJUTSU HAS NO EFFECT ON ME...





READ THIS WAY
!!
SHAA
DOO
SH
FWOO
SHFFF
BA
P
SPLA SH
!
DON'T GET DISTRACTED.
KURENAI !!
!!


!
IMPRESSIVE, KURENAI... HOWEVER...

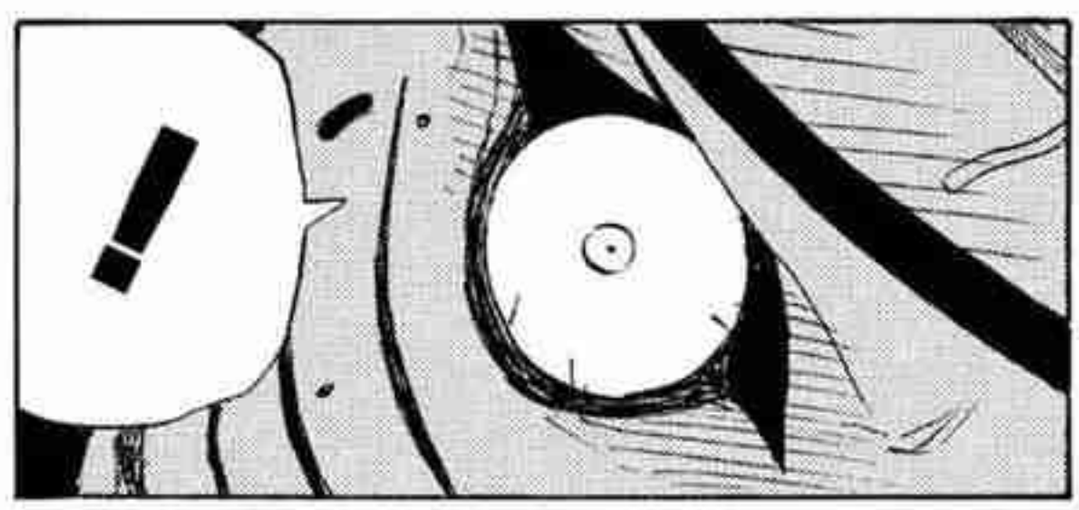
VOOSH
ZIP
VOOSH

!
FOR YOU, THAT IS.
...IT ALL ENDS NOW.

VOOSH
ZIP

BZZ...

WHAT?!
SPURT


!

WATER STYLE!
SHUP SHUP SHUP

SUIKÔDAN NO JUTSU! SHARK BOMB!!

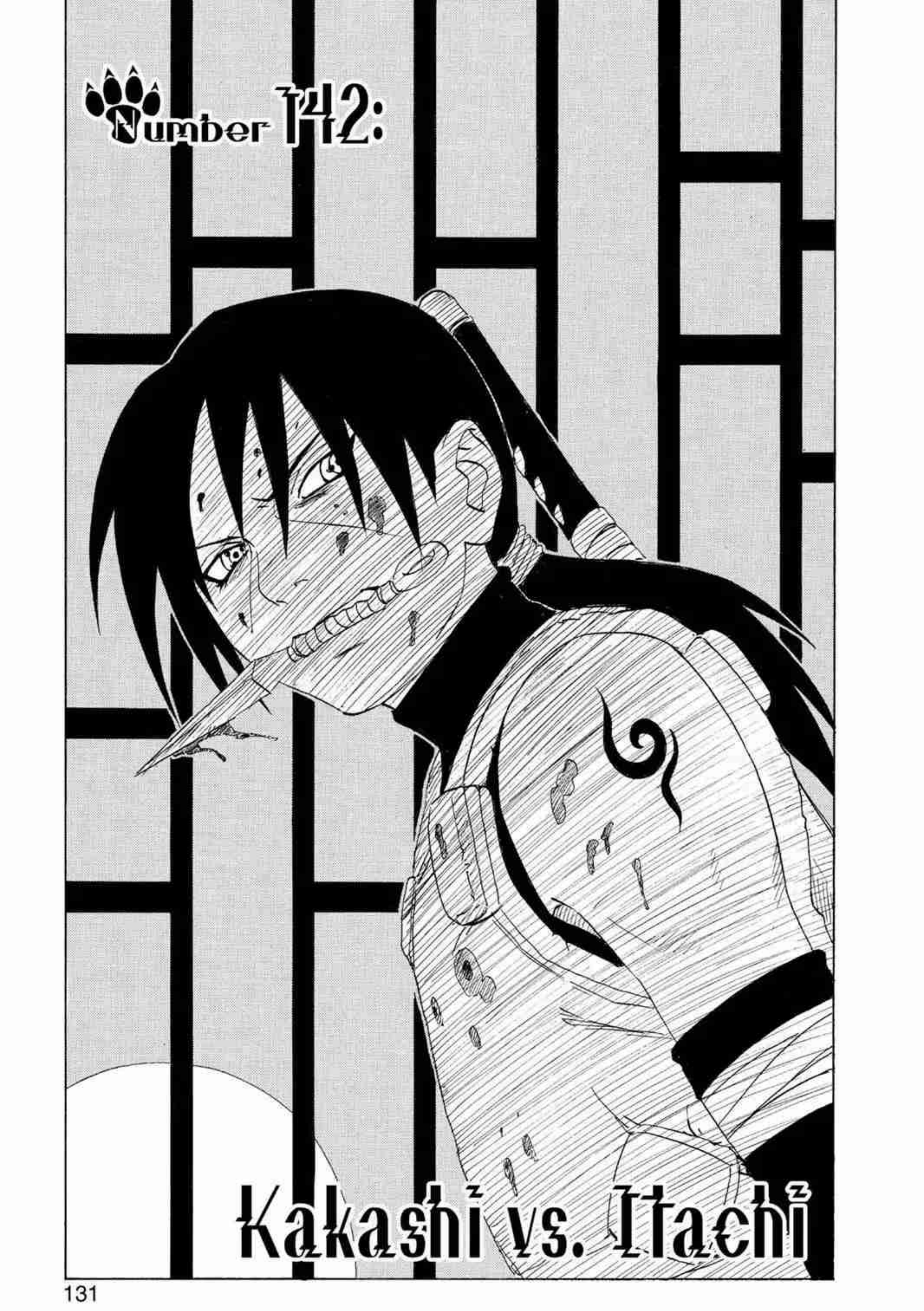
SHIN

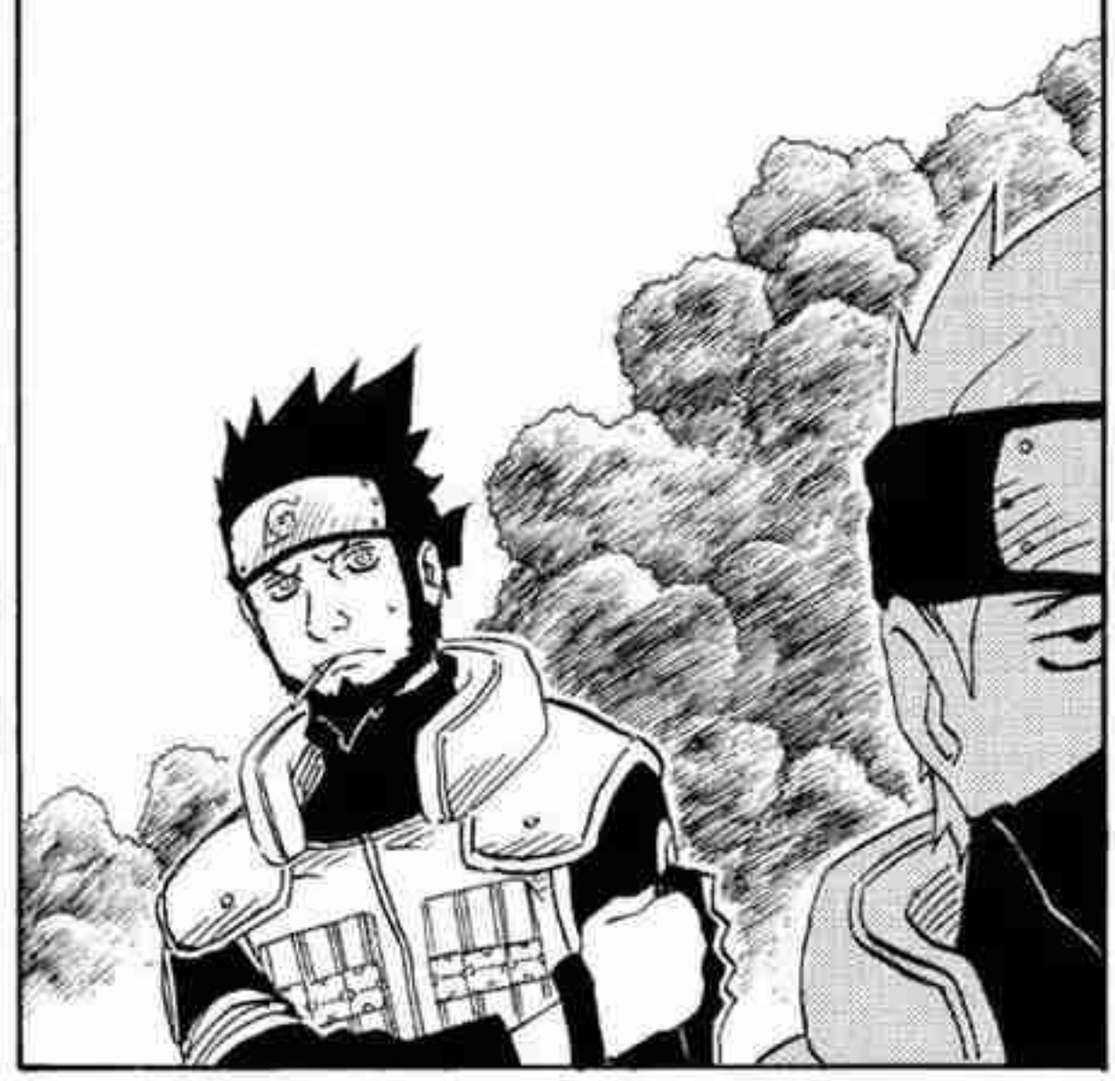
BUT I GUESS I GOT A LITTLE WORRIED...
SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGERS ...

WHY ARE YOU HERE NOW?
I KNOW I ASKED YOU TO DO THIS FOR ME...

THAT'S MY JUTSU...!!

KAKASHI
...


Number 142:
Kakashi vs. Itachi

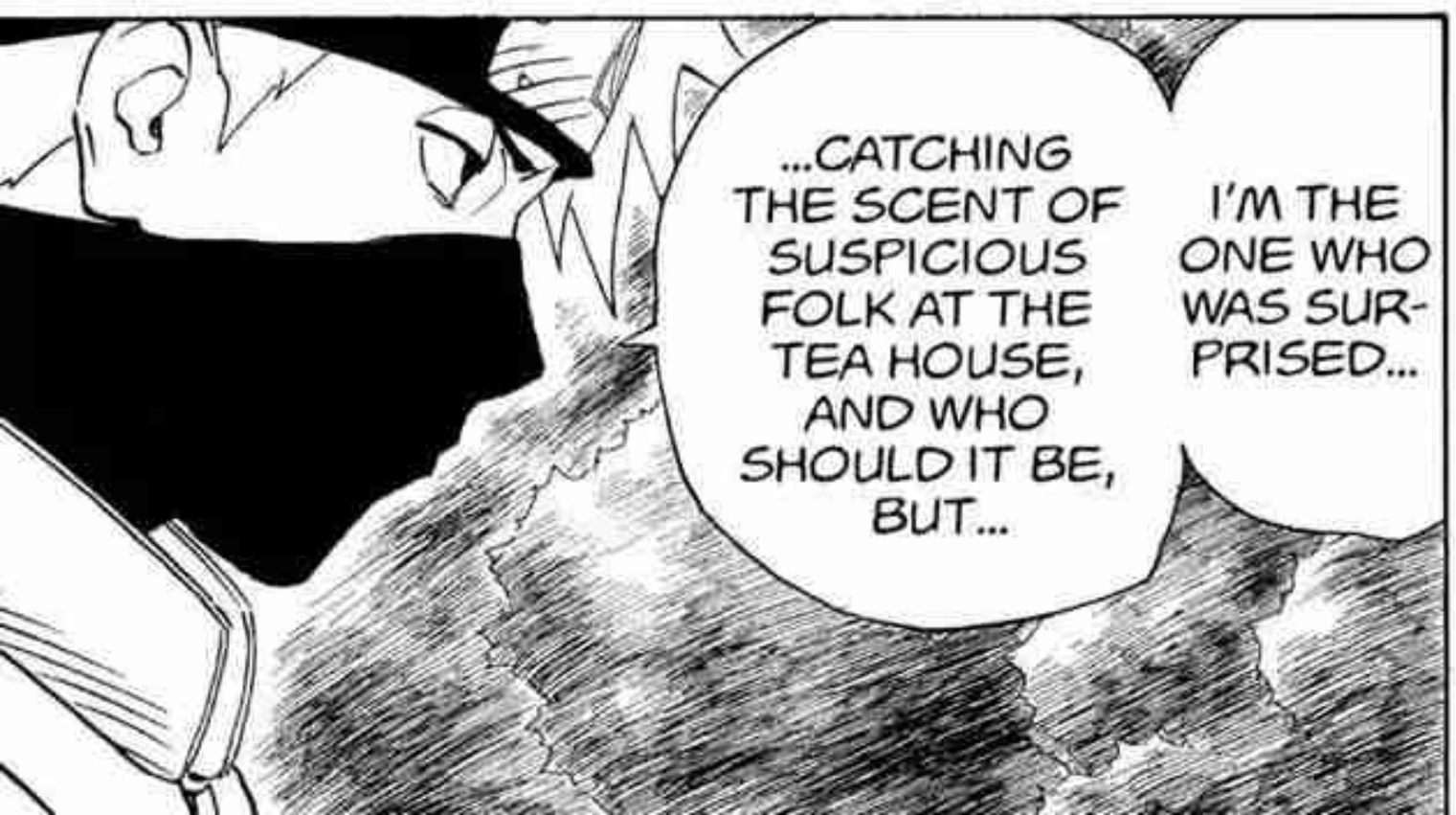


...HE'S A TRUE SHARINGAN HEIR...! I HAVE TO EXPECT THE WORST...

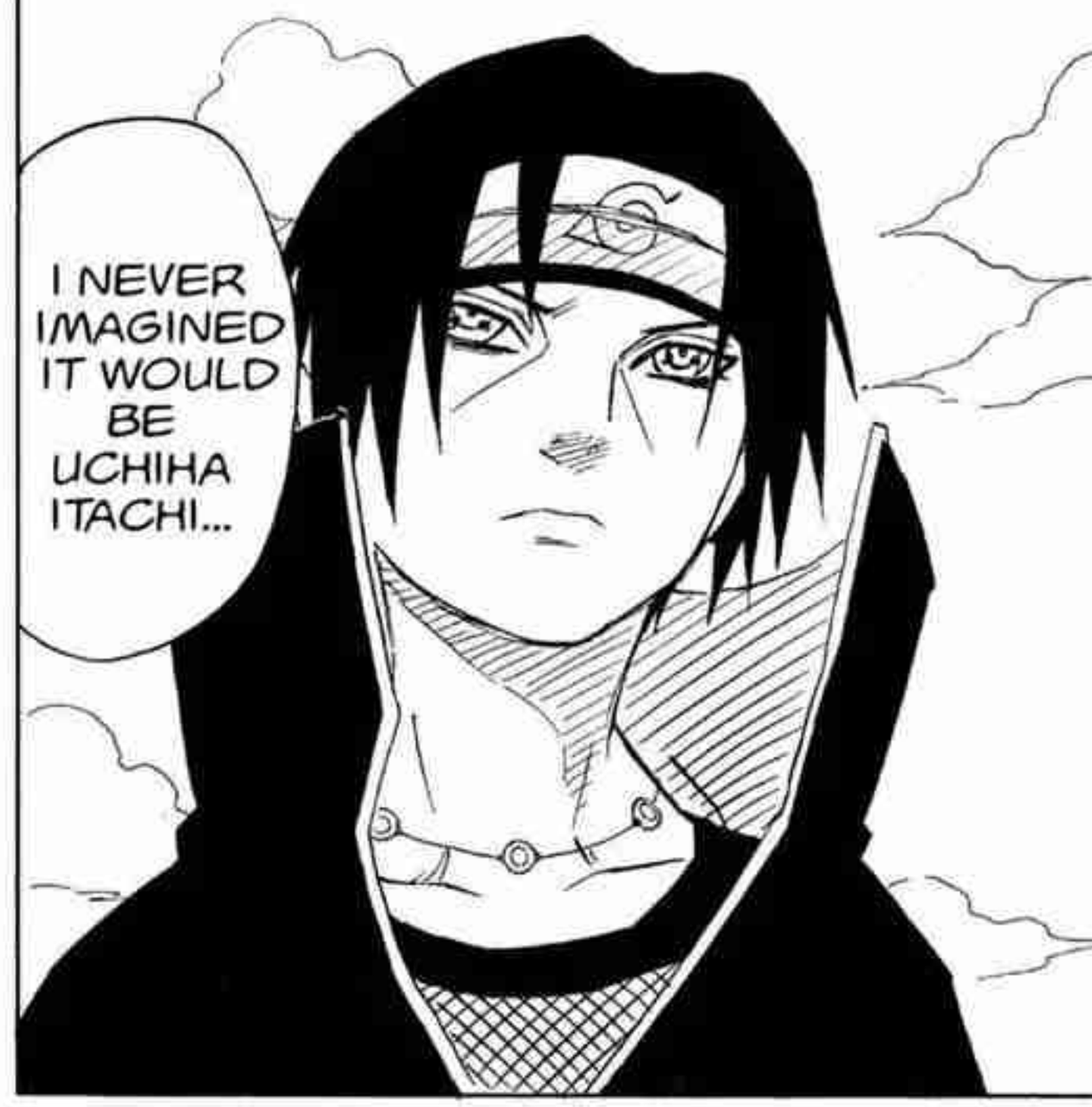
HIS EYES HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT...

...YOU MUST BE KAKASHI THE MIRROR NINJA, THEN...
THERE IS ANOTHER WITH THE EYE...

NO WONDER YOU STOPPED ME...
MY, MY, YOU'RE A SURPRISE ...


...CATCHING THE SCENT OF SUSPICIOUS FOLK AT THE TEA HOUSE, AND WHO SHOULD IT BE, BUT...
I'M THE ONE WHO WAS SUR-PRISED...

...AND THE SCOURGE OF KIRIGAKURE, HOSHIGAKI KISAME.

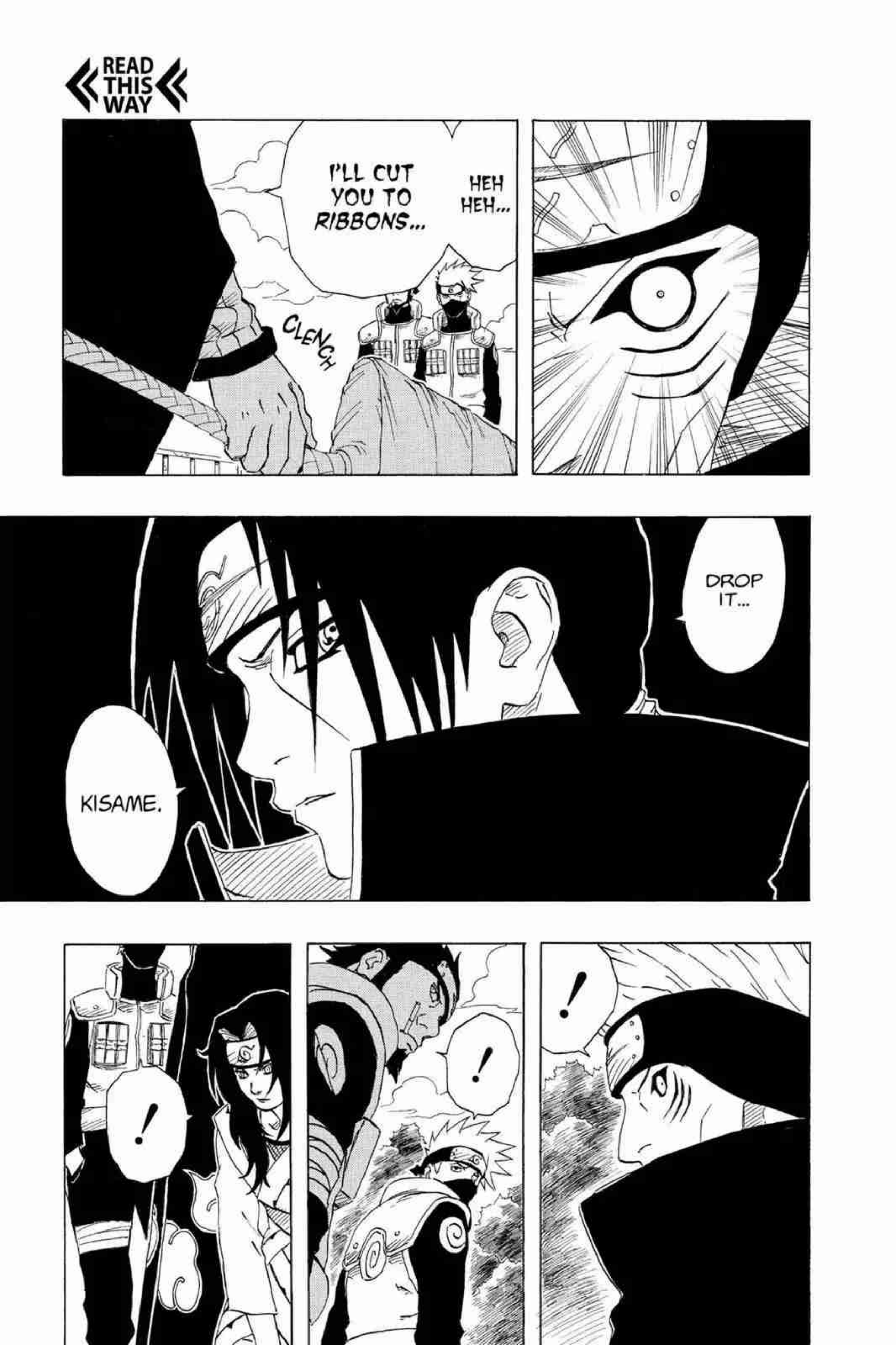

I NEVER IMAGINED IT WOULD BE UCHIHA ITACHI...

WHAT AN HONOR.
WELL, WELL... YOU EVEN KNOW MY NAME.

...I HAD HEARD THAT YOUNG ZABUZA HAD SPARRED WITH YOU...?
YEAH...

...I SEE, SO THAT GIANT BLADE OF YOURS BELONGS TO ONE OF THE SEVEN NINJA SWORDSMEN OF THE MIST, SAMEHADA, THE SHARKSKIN.

HEH HEH.


READ THIS WAY
I'LL CUT YOU TO RIBBONS...
HEH HEH...
CLENCH
DROP IT...
KISAME.
!
!
!

YOU DID NOT COME HERE TO SUFFER INJURIES!
DO NOT FORGET OUR PURPOSE...

AND IF YOU TAKE TOO MUCH TIME, YOU'LL GIVE OTHER SHINOBI A CHANCE TO ARRIVE.
...IF YOU SPAR WITH HIM HEAD-ON, YOU WON'T GET AWAY SCOT-FREE...
BUT...

...

...

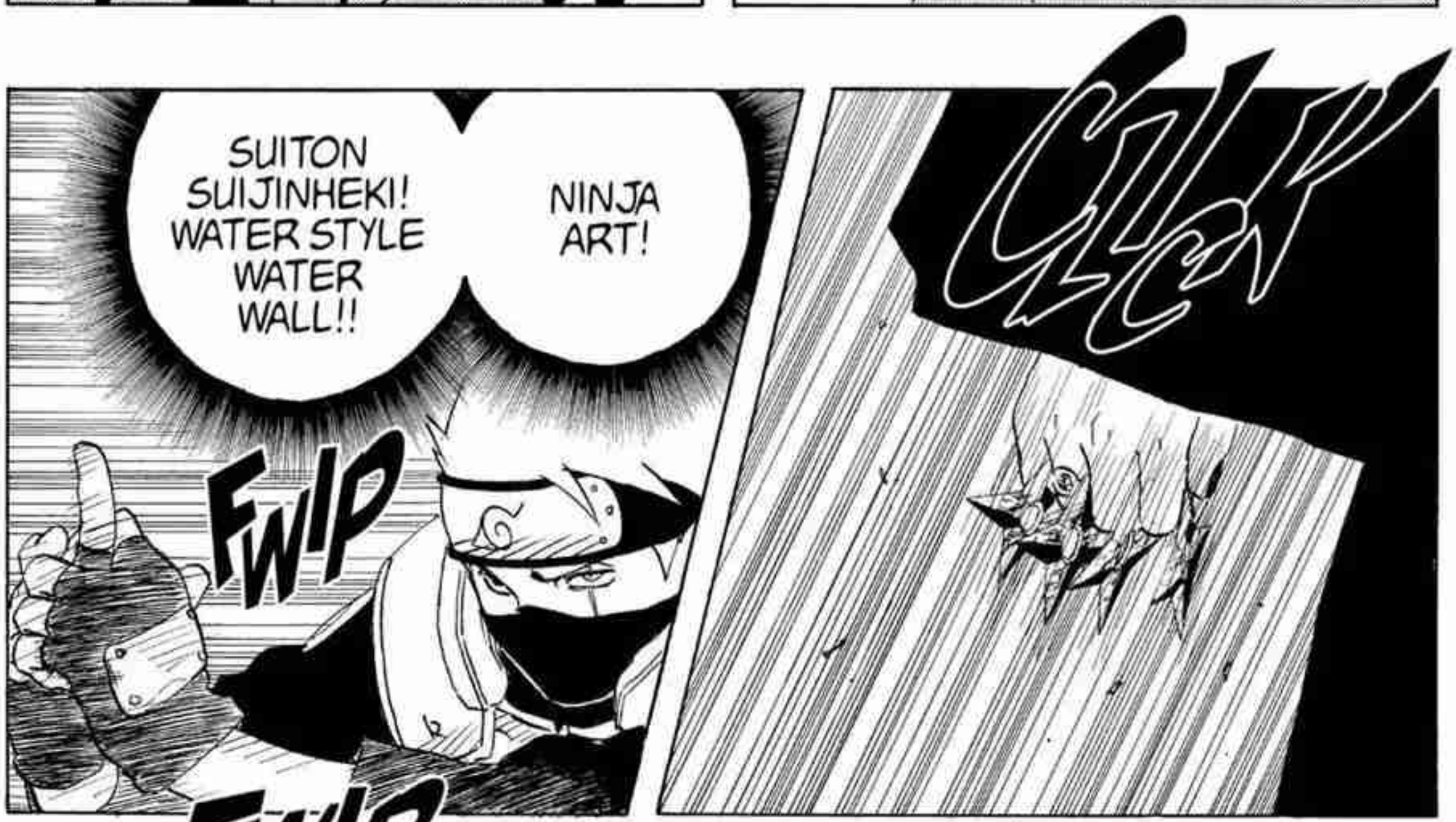
...AND PRAY TELL, WHAT MIGHT THAT PURPOSE BE...?
BOO

LOOKING FOR...?
...

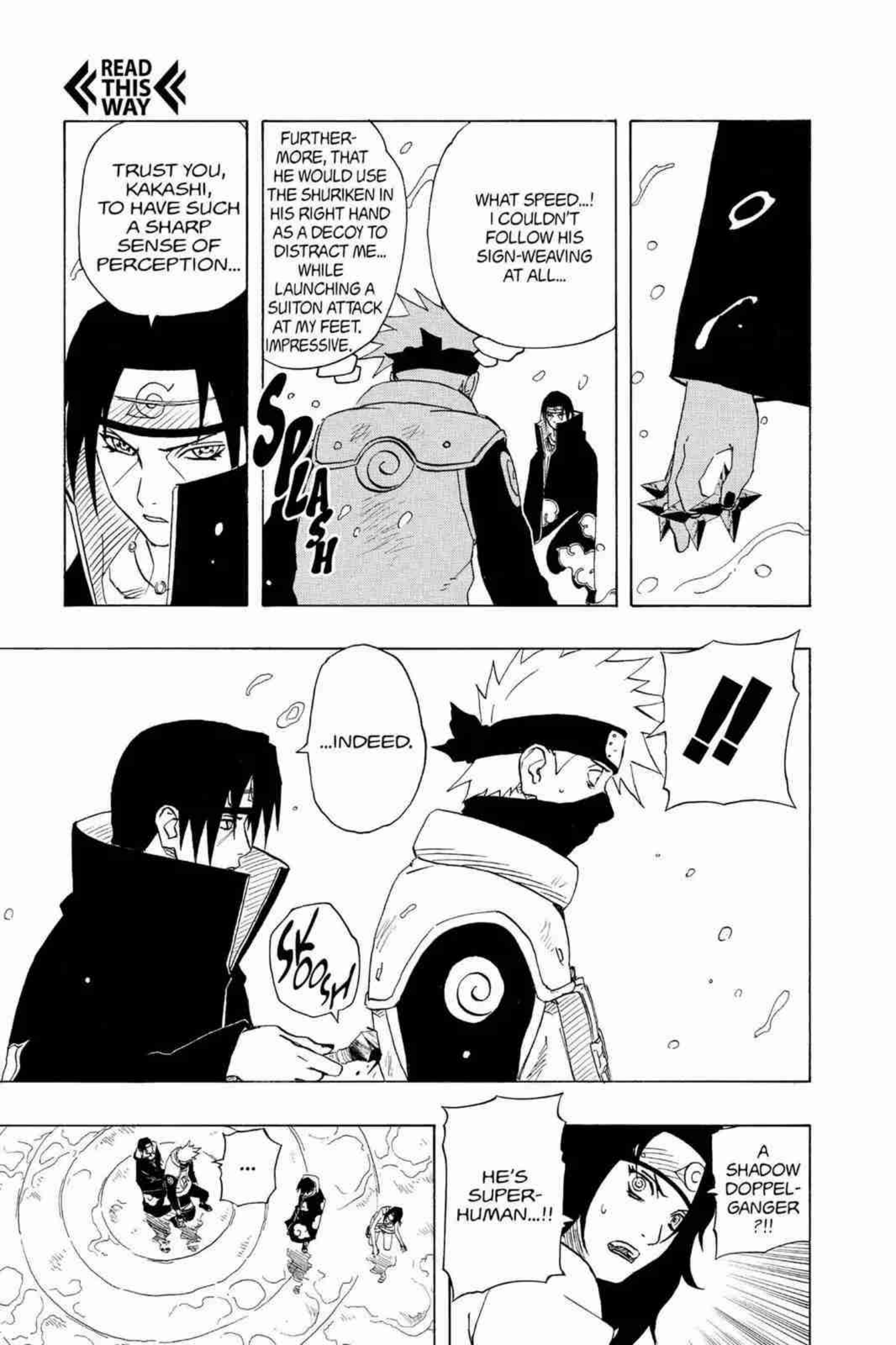
WE KNOW WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR IS HERE...

...I, UNLIKE KISAME, WOULDN'T TAKE ANY TIME AT ALL.

...
AND WHAT MIGHT YOU BE LOOKING FOR?


SUITON SUIJINHEKI! WATER STYLE WATER WALL!!
NINJA ART!
GLEEN
FWIP
FWIP

VOOSH VOOSH VOOSH VOOSH


READ THIS WAY
TRUST YOU, KAKASHI, TO HAVE SUCH A SHARP SENSE OF PERCEPTION...
FURTHER-MORE, THAT HE WOULD USE THE SHURIKEN IN HIS RIGHT HAND AS A DECOY TO DISTRACT ME... WHILE LAUNCHING A SUITON ATTACK AT MY FEET. IMPRESSIVE.
WHAT SPEED...! I COULDN'T FOLLOW HIS SIGN-WEAVING AT ALL...
SPLASH
!!
...INDEED.
SWOOSH
...
HE'S SUPER-HUMAN...!!
A SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGER ?!!

HEH HEH... IMPRESSIVE, THAT THE MIRROR NINJA HAS MASTERED MY FORMER VILLAGE'S JUTSU SO WELL...

A WATER DOPPEL-GANGER?!!

SPLASH...

NICE... KAKASHI!!

!

CLMP

WHAT?!

THIS ONE'S THE SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGER...!

POP!

WATCH OUT, KURENAI!!

KA BOOM

KRIK
UGH...
KAKASHI ...!

FOOSH

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S THIS GOOD...
SHUP
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN... HE'S SOMEONE WHO ROSE TO BLACK OPS SQUAD COMMANDER BY THE TIME HE WAS 13.

NO, ACTUALLY, HE'S BETTER. HE HASN'T EVEN BEGUN TO SHOW HIS TRUE STRENGTH.

...YOUR BODY, NOT BEING GENETICALLY ADAPTED...
HOWEVER ...
...IS NO MATCH FOR THAT EYE.
VERY IMPRESSIVE, THAT YOU WHO ARE NOT EVEN OF UCHIHA BLOOD...
...HAVE MASTERED THE SHARINGAN THIS MUCH...
...MY CLAN'S TRUE STRENGTH!
LET ME SHOW YOU...
IT GETS FATIGUED VERY QUICKLY...
THAT'S RIGHT...
DO YOU KNOW WHY THE UCHIHA CLAN HAS BEEN LAUDED AND FEARED AS THE MOST POWERFUL...?
BLINK
N...NO WAY!!
!!!
FWUUUH--...

YOU TWO, DON'T LOOK HIM IN THE EYE!!

SHOOT!!

ONLY ANOTHER SHARINGAN CAN HANDLE HIM NOW.

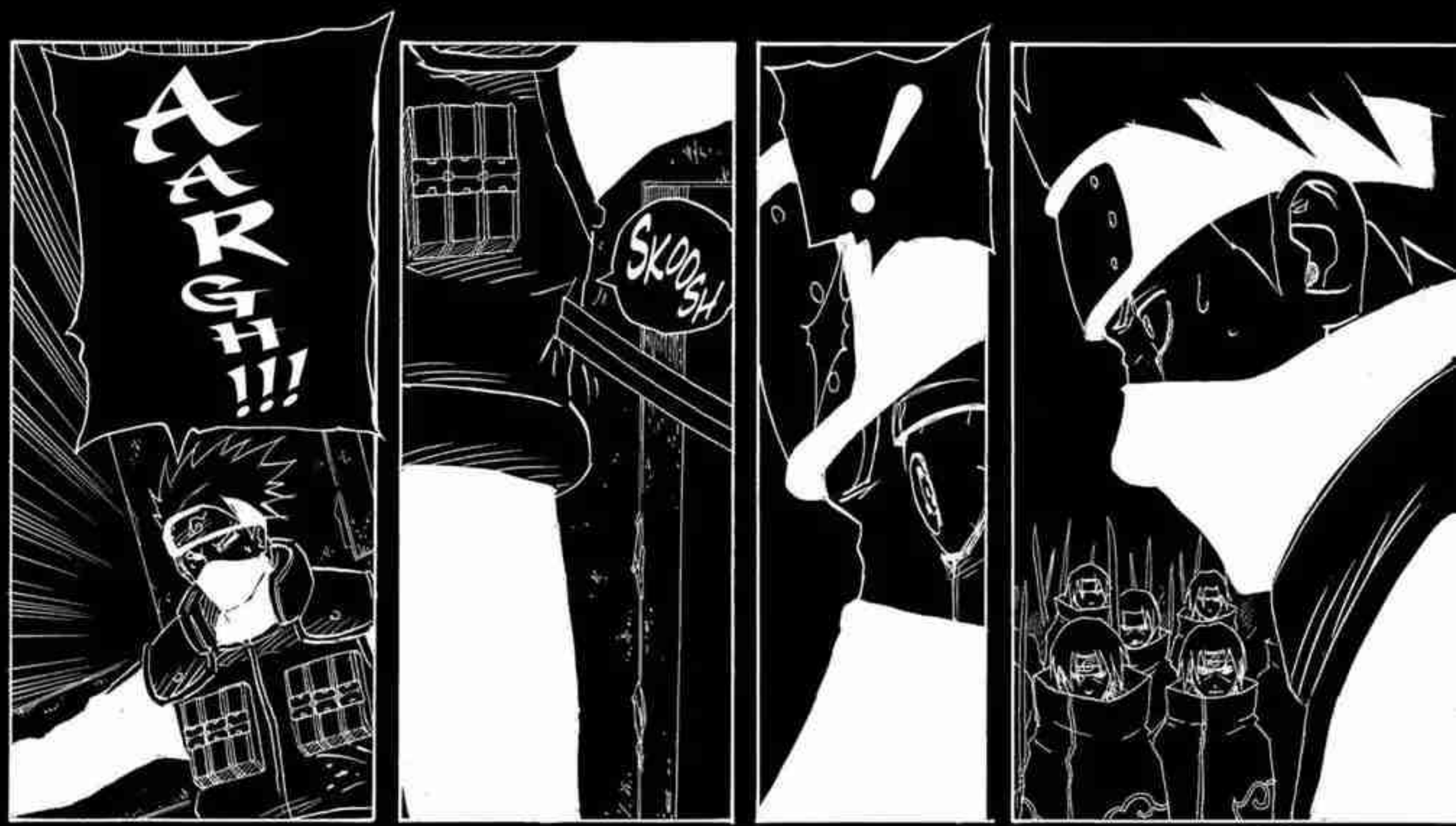
LISTEN CLOSELY, BOTH OF YOU, DO NOT OPEN YOUR EYES, NO MATTER WHAT...
IF YOU MEET EYES WITH HIM RIGHT NOW, YOU'LL BE FINISHED.

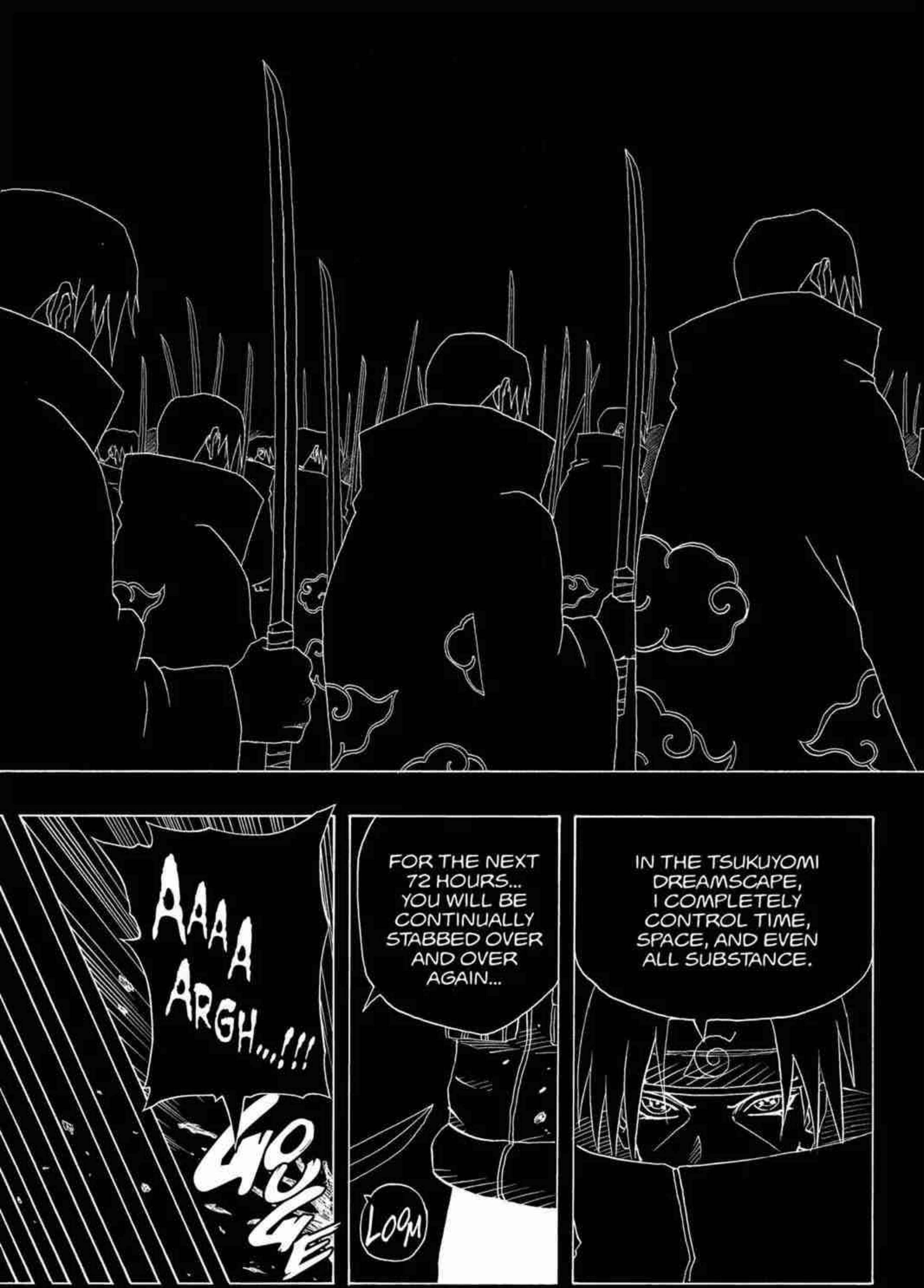
...ONE CAN RESIST THIS MANGEKYO TO SOME EXTENT.

IF ONE POSSESSES THE SHARINGAN...

...
SASUKE
...
GEEEE!!

BUT YOU CANNOT BREAK THIS SPECIAL SHARINGAN JUTSU...
ONLY SOMEONE WITH KEKKEI GENKAI AND A SHARINGAN CAN STOP ME!
...TSUKUYOMI, THE NIGHTMARE REALM!


AARGH!!!
SKOOSH
!


AAAA ARGH...!!!
WOOF
FOR THE NEXT 72 HOURS... YOU WILL BE CONTINUALLY STABBED OVER AND OVER AGAIN...
LOOM
IN THE TSUKUYOMI DREAMSCAPE, I COMPLETELY CONTROL TIME, SPACE, AND EVEN ALL SUBSTANCE.

REEE
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

KEEP YOUR EYES SHUT!
BUCKLE...
WHAT'S WRONG, KAKASHI...?

ONE SECOND THAT GUY'S TALKING AND THE NEXT SECOND YOU HIT THE GROUND!!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!

MEANWHILE YOU'VE OVERUSED THOSE EYES OF YOURS... YOU KNOW THAT'S DANGEROUS...
HM... AFTER ALL THAT THE FOOL'S SPIRIT IS INTACT...
TMP

WHY NOT JUST KILL ME? IF HE WANTED TO HE COULD...
HUF
HUF
UNH... I SEE... THREE DAYS IN THAT REALM AND LESS THAN A MOMENT PASSED IN THIS ONE....
UGH... IT'S STILL... AFFECTING ME...

THIS THING YOU SEEK... IS IT SASUKE?
UGH...
HUF
HUF

HUF
HUF

NO...
...

...

THE LEGACY OF THE FOURTH HOKAGE...

THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 24 CHAPTER 3

SO I IMMEDIATELY WENT TO BUY THE ISSUE OF *JUMP*, BUT MY HANDS WERE TREMBLING SO MUCH I COULDN'T HOLD ON TO IT VERY WELL. MY HEART WASN'T JUST POUNDING, IT WAS BOUNDING. I SOMEHOW MANAGED TO PAY FOR THE *JUMP*, AND I LOOKED FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENTS PAGE RIGHT AWAY. I SWEAR I ALMOST COLLAPSED!

WHICH IS IT?! DID I WIN?! DID I NOT WIN?! WHICH IS IT, DARN IT?! WITH SUCH IRRATIONAL TENSION, I EAGERLY FLIPPED THOUGH THE PAGES! (I BET I DIDN'T GET IT, DARN IT!!) AND SO, I FINALLY REACHED THE PAGE BEFORE THE ANNOUNCEMENT PAGE FOR THE FEBRUARY HOP ☆ STEP AWARD, AND I SLOWLY TURNED THE PAGE.

THIS ART LOOKS KIND OF FAMILIAR...

THAT WAS MY FIRST IMPRESSION. ...THEN, IT STARTED SINKING IN...

...THESE DRAWINGS... THEY'RE MY DRAWINGS... THEY'RE MY DRAWINGS! ...WHICH MEANS...

AND THEN, OBLIVIOUS TO ALL THE FOLK WHO WERE IN THAT CONVENIENCE STORE, I SUDDENLY CRIED OUT:

"WHOA, WHOA"

I SO COULDN'T SPEAK CLEARLY I MUST HAVE SEEMED LIKE A DERANGED LUNATIC WHO WAS CHANTING SOME WEIRD SPELL ...PROBABLY. AND THEN, I STARTED QUIVERING. I WAS SO ECSTATIC I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO EXPLODE, AND I EXITED THE STORE. ...SUDDENLY, FOR NO EXPLAINABLE REASON, I VIOLENTLY THREW THE *JUMP* ACROSS THE ROAD. THE MAGAZINE FLEW THROUGH THE AIR, PAGES FLAPPING! I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS A REMNANT SUBCONSCIOUS REFLEX FROM MY FORMER BASEBALL DAYS, BUT I DO REMEMBER RECEIVING QUITE A FEW COLD STARES FROM PASSERSBY. THEY WERE PROBABLY THINKING, (WHAT THE...! WHO IS THIS WHACKED-OUT GUY...?! WHAT A WEIRDO...!), BUT, YOU KNOW WHAT, I DON'T CARE AT ALL!! IT'S THE HAPPIEST MOMENT OF MY 21 YEARS OF LIFE, SO TOUGH!!

Number 143:
The Fourth Hokage's Legacy!!

...LEGACY, EH...

(HUF)

(HUF)

(HUF)

THE FOURTH HOKAGE'S ...

WHO ARE THESE GUYS...?!

SPLASH

WHOOO

HUF
...NARUTO, HUH...
HUF

HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN SINCE THE LAST TIME YOU WERE BACK?
LONG TIME NO SEE...

KAKASHI...

...

...

I'LL TRAIN NARUTO FROM NOW ON...

BUT...EVEN SOMEONE OF YOUR REMARKABLE ABILITIES MIGHT NOT BE ENOUGH TO GET HIM READY...

THE THIRD HOKAGE WAS WISE TO PLACE THE BOY UNDER YOUR SUPERVISION. HE'S BEEN WELL LOOKED AFTER.

...!

FOR A LONG TIME HE KEPT MOSTLY TO HIMSELF... BUT THEN...

...

...I'VE BEEN KEEPING AN EYE ON OROCHIMARU EVER SINCE THE DAY HE FLED KONOHA...

BECAUSE IT WAS EVIDENT HE WOULD RETURN...

WHATEVER DO YOU MEAN?

...

...

READ THIS WAY
ORGANI-ZATION?
...
YES?
HE JOINED AN ORGANIZATION.
AT FIRST THEY STUCK TO SMALL-SCALE CLOAK AND DAGGER STUFF. NOTHING DRAMATIC. BUT YOU KNEW SOMETHING BIG WAS COMING...
I DON'T REALLY HAVE A LOT OF DETAILS, BUT IT SEEMS TO BE A SMALL SYNDICATE OF NINE SHINOBI THAT CALLS ITSELF THE AKATSUKI.
...WHAT ORGANIZATION?
...CONSID-ERING WHO THEY ARE.
...AS S-CLASS CRIMINALS!
ALMOST ALL OF THEM ARE LISTED IN THE BINGO BOOK...
?

!!

...AND AMONG THEM IS ITACHI.

...

SO YOU SEE WHERE THIS IS GOING...?

WHEN NINE SHINOBI LIKE THAT GET TOGETHER IT'S NOT BECAUSE THEY WANT TO DO CHARITY WORK...

...WHILE THE OTHERS PAIRED UP AND DISPERSED ...

THEY'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR NEW JUTSU... AMONG OTHER THINGS...

RECENTLY THE GROUP STARTED SPLITTING UP... OROCHIMARU WENT OFF ON HIS OWN...

...ANY PROOF THAT ONE ITEM ON THEIR SHOPPING LIST HAS NINE TAILS?!

...IT'S A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY.

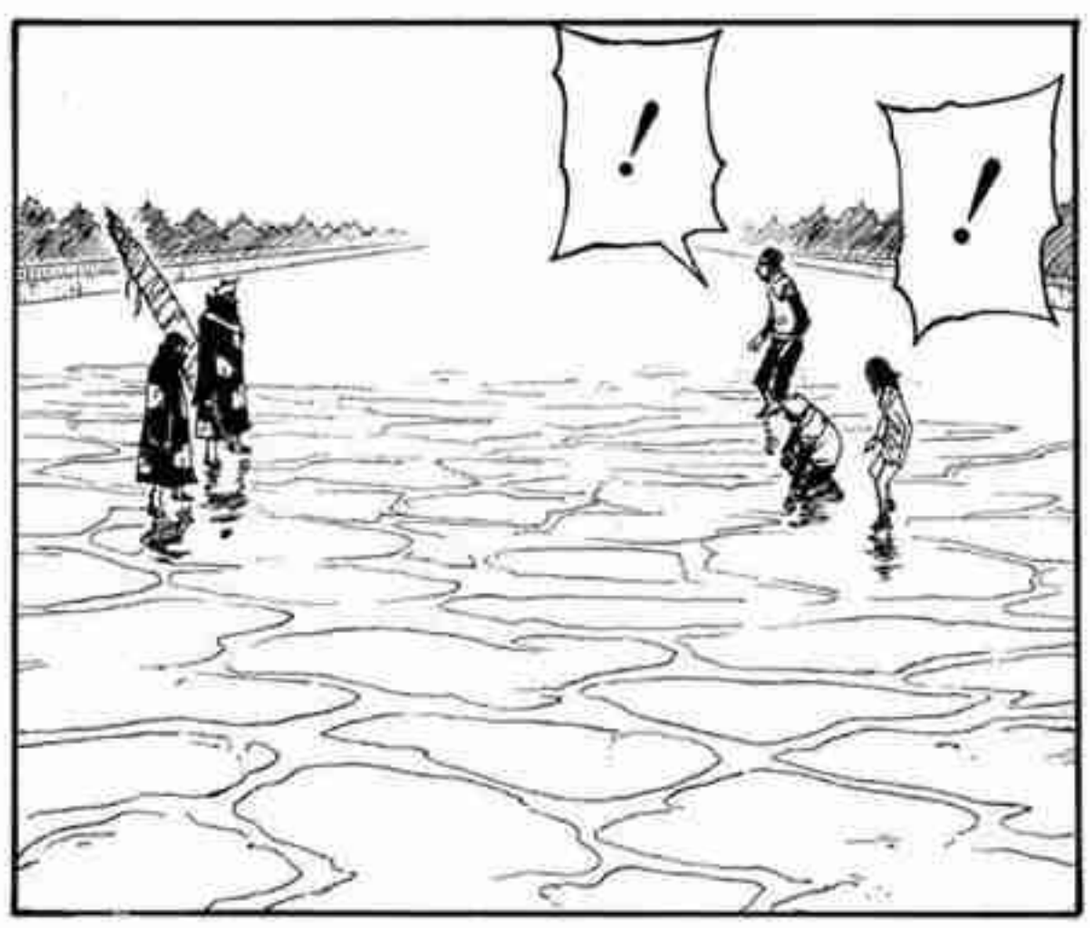
IT MAKES SENSE. THE NINE-TAILED FOX DOES HAVE ONE OF THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF CHAKRA...

...

IT'S UP TO YOU TO TEACH HIM HOW TO USE HIS SHARINGAN...
FOR NOW, FOCUS ON SASUKE...
ESPECIALLY SINCE ITACHI'S PART OF THE ORGANIZATION.

SOONER OR LATER, NARUTO'S GOING TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH WHO AND WHAT HE REALLY IS...
KAKASHI...
THAT'S THE BOY'S DESTINY.

AND I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON NARUTO. LEAVE HIS TRAINING TO ME.


!
!

HUF
YOU SEEK... THE NINE-TAILED FOX INSIDE NARUTO?

HUF

HUF

I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU...

YOU'RE... NOT THE ONLY ONES, ARE YOU?

YOU CALL YOURSELVES THE AKATSUKI?

ISH

WH...
WHAT?!!

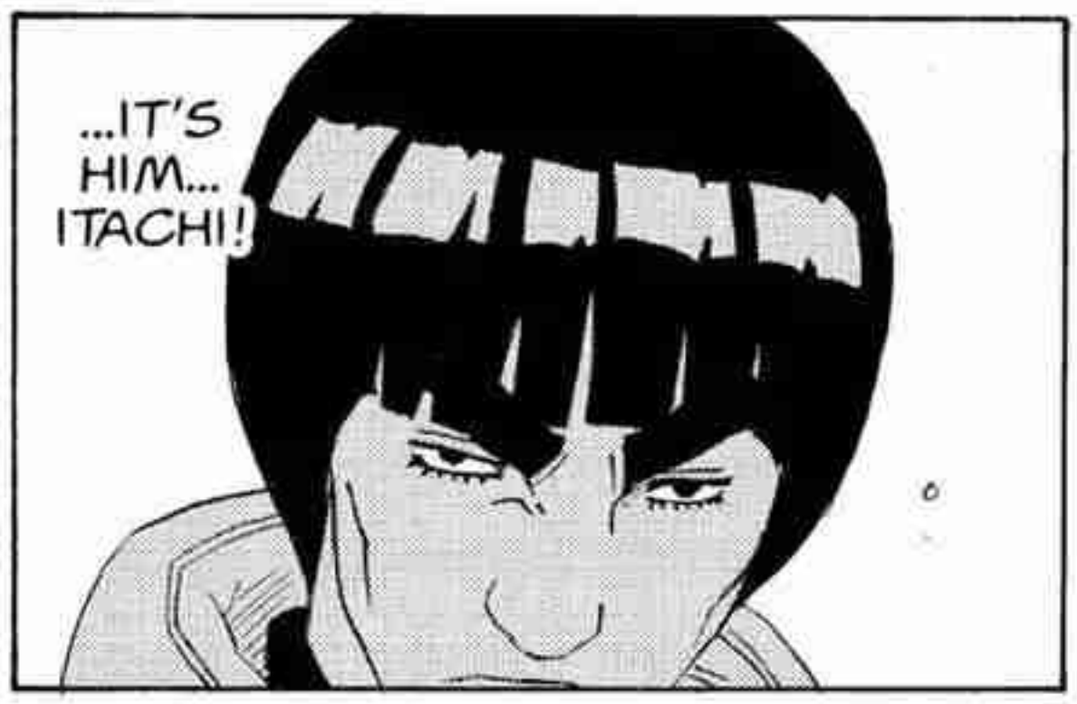
KK

KONOHA GÔRIKI SENPÛ! SEVERE LEAF HURRI-CANE!!

!!

WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?
THE LEAF VILLAGE'S FIERCEST BEAST OF BATTLE?
...

DO NOT UNDERES-TIMATE HIM.


...IT'S HIM... ITACHI!

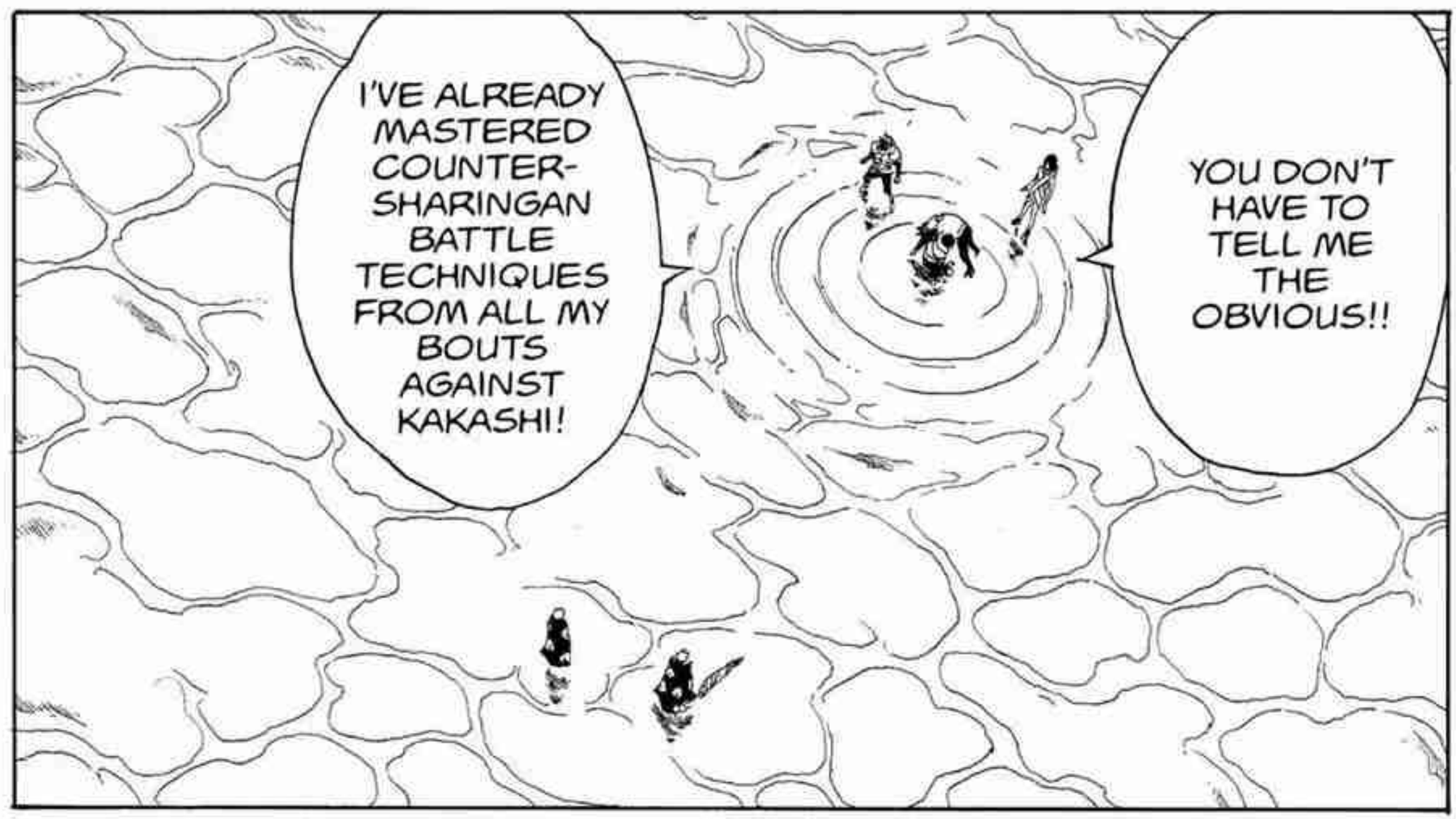
SPLAT
...UGH...

KONOHA'S NOBLE BLUE BEAST...
MIGHT GUY!!

HE'LL SNARE YOU IN HIS JUTSU!!
DON'T LOOK ITACHI IN THE EYE, GUY!!

THAT HE COULD PUSH KAKASHI THIS FAR...
RUF

GLUB GLUB GLUB


I'VE ALREADY MASTERED COUNTER-SHARINGAN BATTLE TECHNIQUES FROM ALL MY BOUTS AGAINST KAKASHI!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME THE OBVIOUS!!

OPEN YOUR EYES, BOTH OF YOU!!

JUST KEEP YOUR SIGHT ON THEIR FEET AT ALL TIMES, AND YOU CAN STILL READ THEIR MOVEMENTS AND REACT.

WHEN YOU GO UP AGAINST THE SHARINGAN, YOU ONLY NEED TO AVOID MEETING YOUR OPPONENT'S EYES!

I SUPPOSE SO... YOU SIMPLY NEED TO ACQUIRE THE KNACK FOR DISCERNING AN OPPONENT'S MOVEMENTS JUST FROM THEIR FEET.

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THAT DOES MAKE SENSE, BUT...

BLINK

YOU'RE PROBABLY THE ONLY ONE OF US... WHO IS ANY GOOD AT IT.

BLINK

...

YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO LEARN IT ON THE FLY!!

BUT IN THIS EMERGENCY SITUATION, WE DON'T HAVE THAT LUXURY.

READ THIS WAY
ASUMA, YOU'RE GOING TO BE BACKING ME UP.
KURENAI! GET KAKASHI TO THE MEDICS!!
SO WHAT'S THE PLAN?
YA GOT GUTS...
...UNTIL THE ANBU BLACK OPS REINFORCEMENTS THAT I REQUISITIONED ARRIVE!!
ALL WE NEED TO DO IS BUY SOME TIME...
KISAME... I'M CALLING IT OFF.
!
SHE

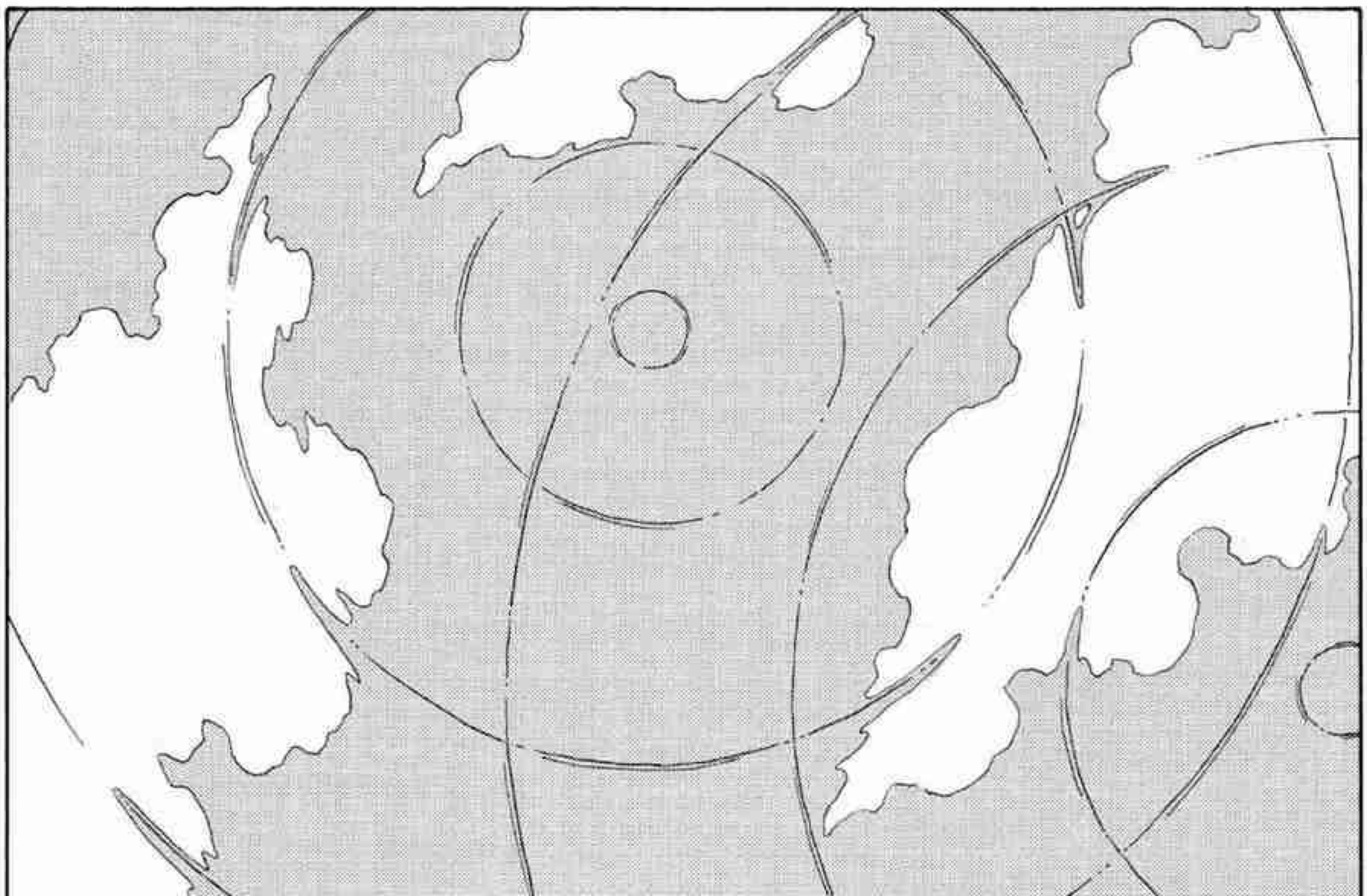
...HMPH...

TEMPTING AS IT IS, THIS IS NOT THE WAY TO DO THIS... LET'S GO.
WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO START A WAR...

FWOO
FWOO

GAH ...!
...
...

FSH
THEY DON'T KNOW HOW LUCKY THEY ARE...



HOW COME I GET STUCK TAGGING ALONG WHILE YOU DO YOUR RESEARCH FOR ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR PERVY BOOKS?!

WHY?! WHY?!

WHAT?!!

I'VE GOT TO TRAIN... MASTER KAKASHI'S GOING TO TEACH ME ALL SORTS OF NEW JUTSU, LIKE THE CHIDORI!!

I SWEAR, MASTER KAKASHI'S BEEN PLAYING FAVORITES LATELY!

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS!

PLOD PLOD

THERE'S A PARTICULAR WOMAN I WANT TO COVER, SO WE NEED TO FIND HER.

THIS IS NO ORDINARY RESEARCH JAUNT, YOU KNOW.

SIGH... ...I KNOW THIS REAL COOL JUTSU... THAT'S SO MUCH MIGHTIER THAN THE CHIDORI...

OH WELL, MAYBE I'LL ASK SASUKE TO TAG ALONG.

NO, NO THANKS !!

LOOK PERVY SAGE, WHAT YOU DO ON YOUR TIME IS YOUR BUSINESS! BUT I'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO THAN CHASE YOUR WOMEN!

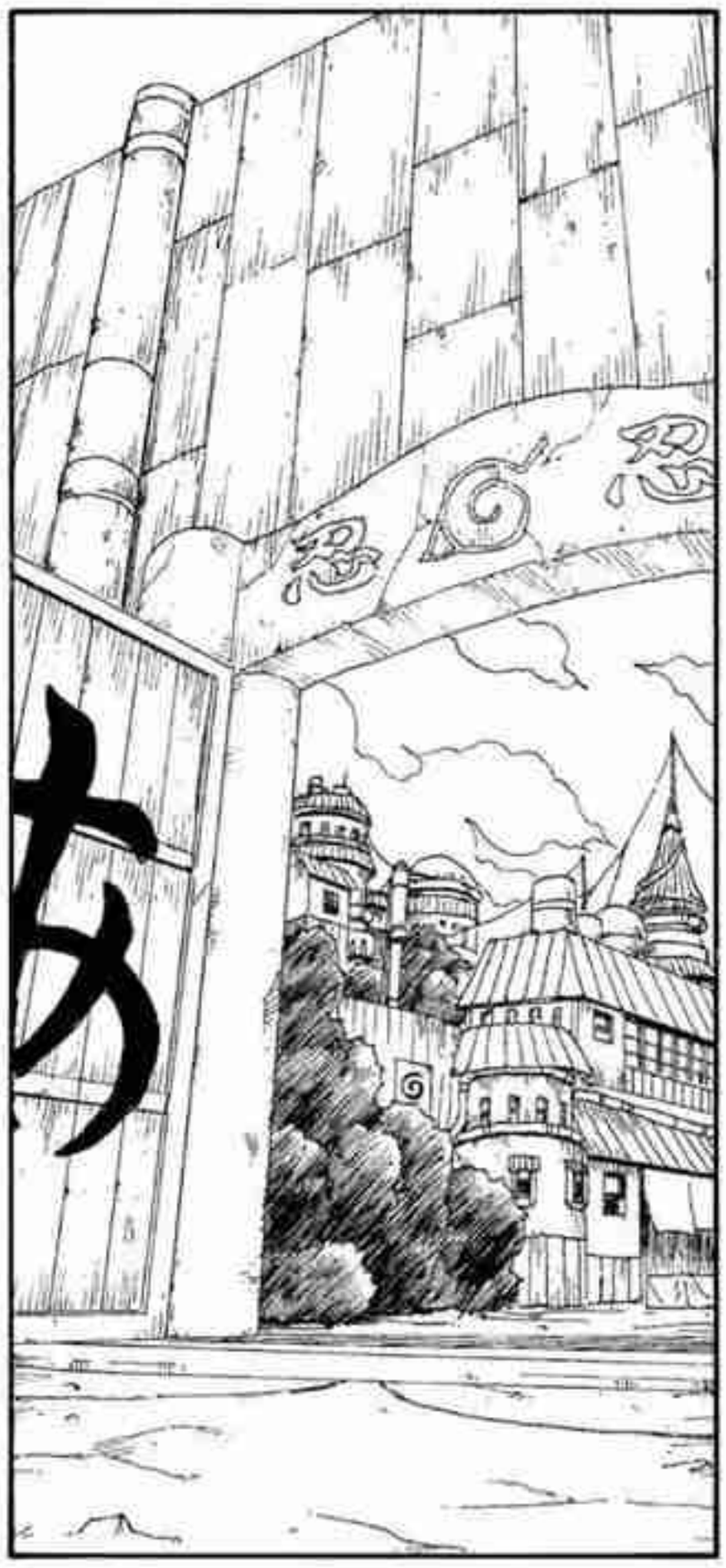
BESIDES, THIS WOMAN, SHE'S A REAL LOOKER... I KNOW YOU'LL WANT TO MEET HER!

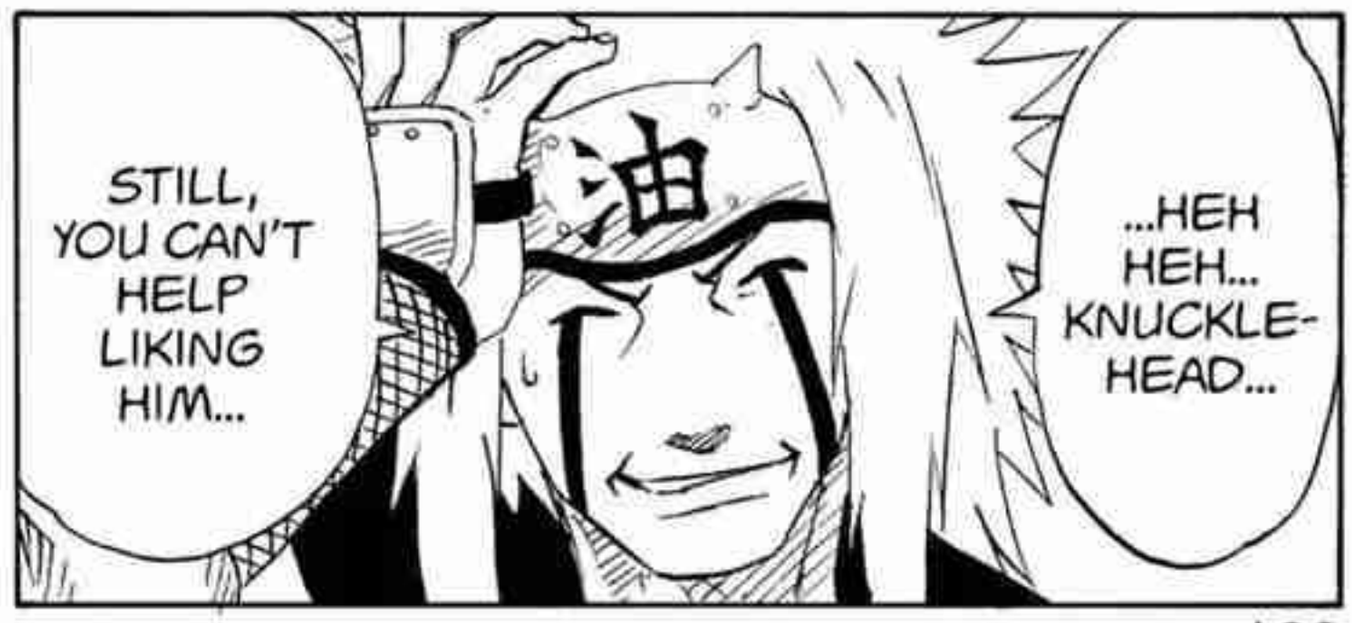
WELL... UH... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS NICELY, BUT I DON'T THINK THAT YOU'RE CUT OUT FOR THAT MOVE...

FAWIP

I'LL GO! I'LL GO!!

OH! OH!





READ THIS WAY
THEN SAKURA'LL FALL FOR ME TOO!! I BET...!!
ALL RIGHT--!! I'M GOING TO GO LEARN SOME NEW JUTSU AND BLOW SASUKE AND MASTER KAKASHI AWAY!
SNAP
LET'S GO!!!
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE HOLING UP IN SOME MOUNTAIN FOR A FEW MONTHS...
YOU'RE A LITTLE TOO ENTHUSI-ASTIC, KID...
KREEE...
UNNH...

MEET KISHIMOTO'S ASSISTANTS PART SEVEN

YET ANOTHER NEW, YOUNG ASSISTANT HAS JOINED OUR NARUTO STAFF. AS ALWAYS, WE'LL BE INTRODUCING HIM HERE.

ASSISTANT NO. 7: OHKUBO AKIRA

PROFILE

- STILL FRESHLY SCRUBBED, YOUNG AND SPRIGHTLY.
- NO MATTER HOW STARTLED, MANAGES TO SAY "WOW" IN A NORMAL TONE OF VOICE.
- PRETTY SHARP-EYED.
- HAS BAGS UNDER HIS EYES.
- A SOCCER LAD WHO IS OBSESSED WITH SOCCER.
- MANLY IN A CASUAL WAY.

JOB: BETA [THE ARTIST THAT SPOTS THE SOLID BLACKS IN HAIR AND CLOTHING], TONING, AND BACKGROUNDS.

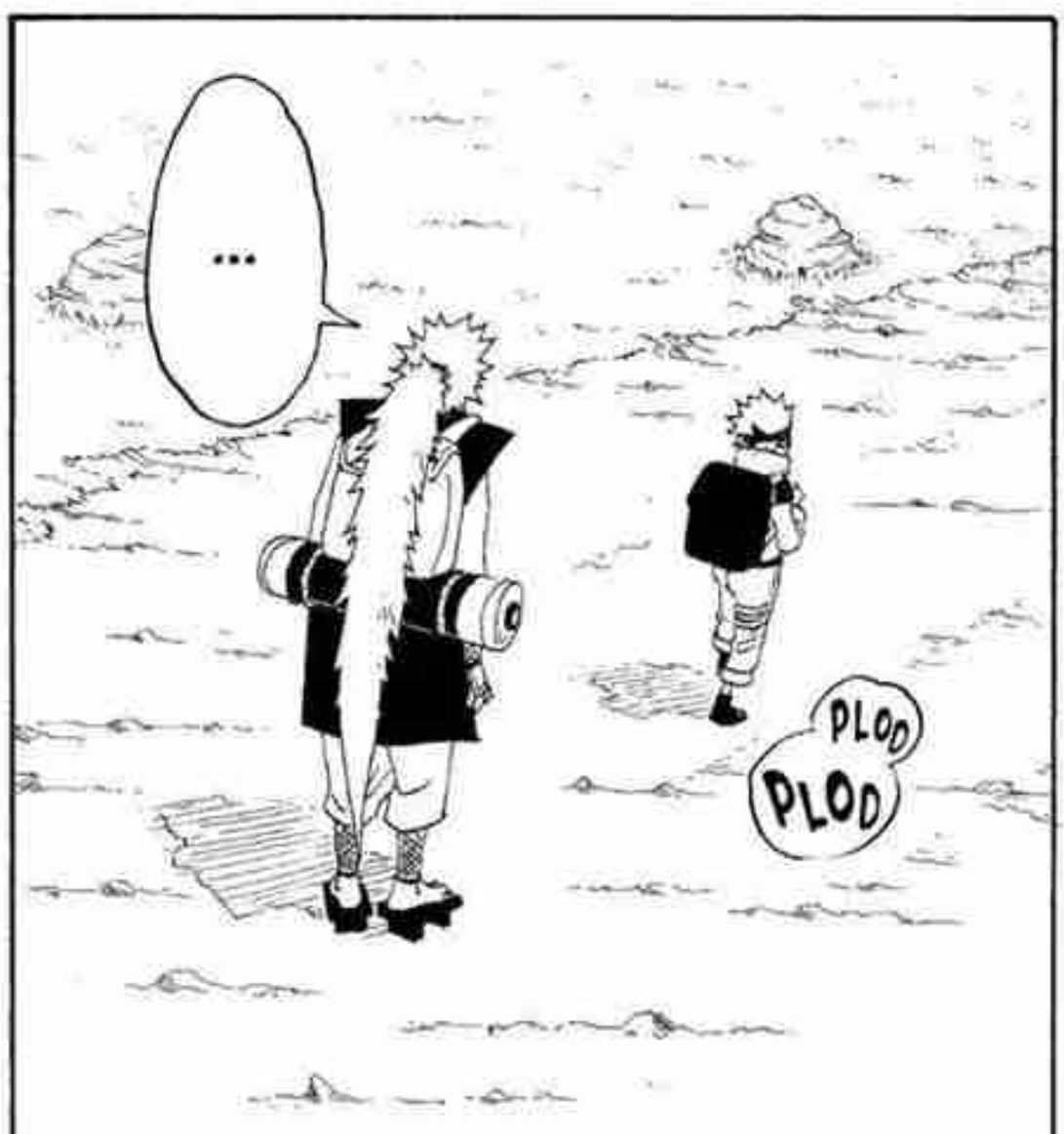
PLOD
PLOD

Number 144: The Pursuers

Number 144: The Pursuers

HUH...

...



I TOLD YOU, MY NAME IS JIRAIYA... SHEESH...

HEY! HEY! SO...

...THE FACT THAT SUCH AN IMPRESSIVE PERVY SAGE ASKED ME TO BE HIS TRAVEL COMPANION MEANS SOMETHING, RIGHT?

...

RIGHT?

IT MEANS I'VE GOT SOME INCREDIBLE TALENT HIDDEN INSIDE ME, RIGHT?

...

MAYBE CUZ YOU HAVE TO GET AS GOOD AS ME IN ORDER TO BE INITIATED INTO SAGE-LEVEL SUPER-JUTSU...?

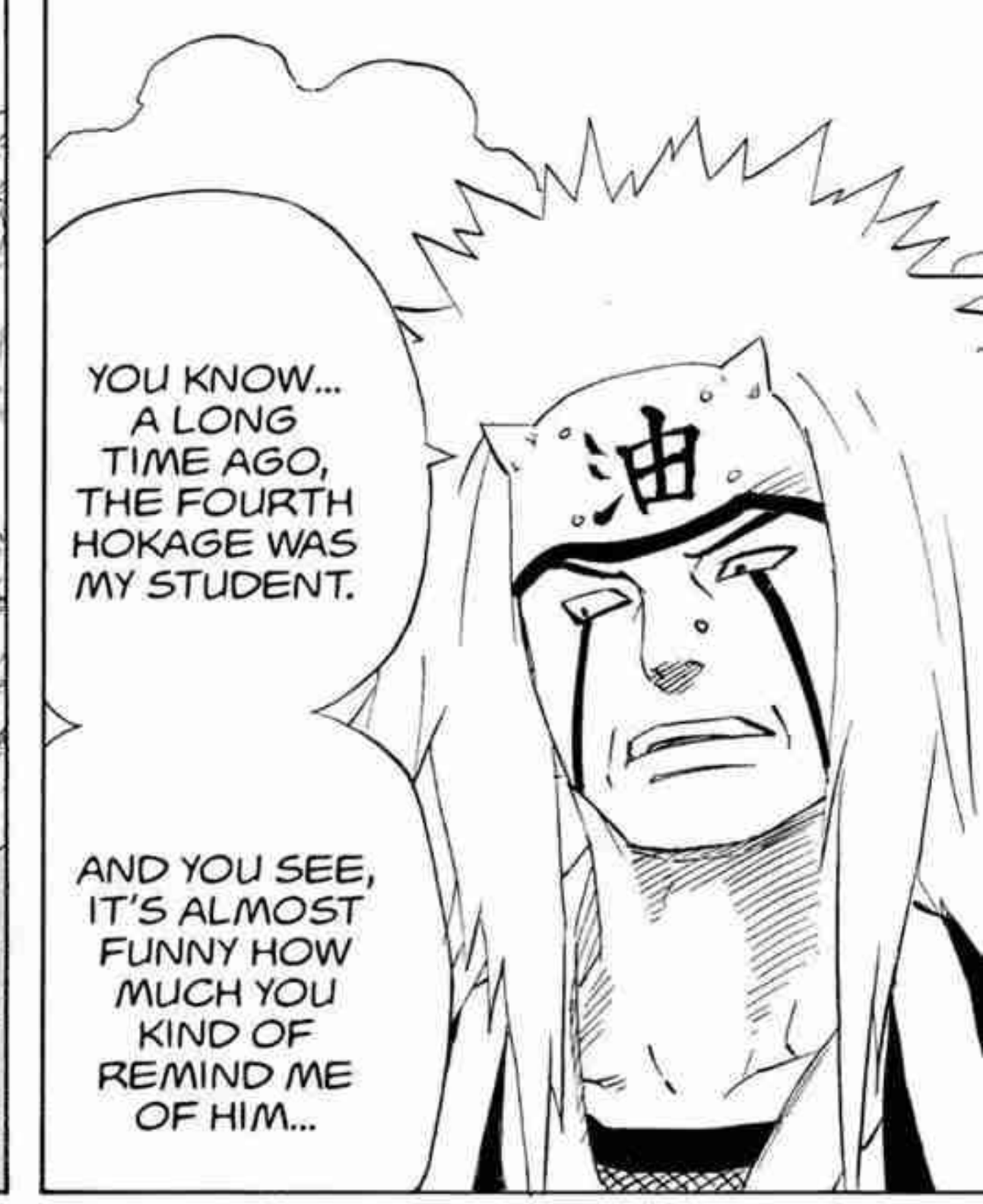
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH...

Skip Skip

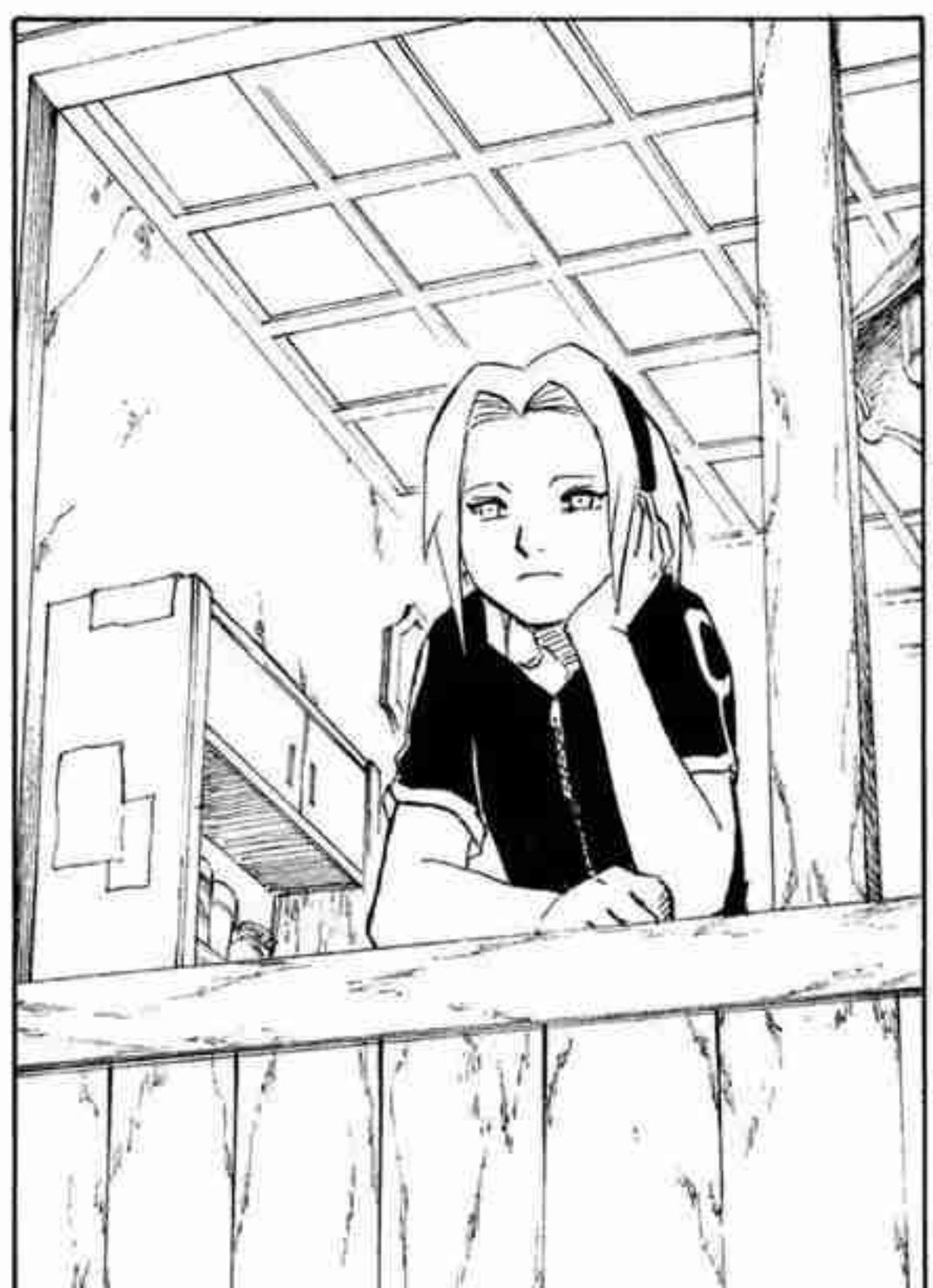
HEY! HEY!

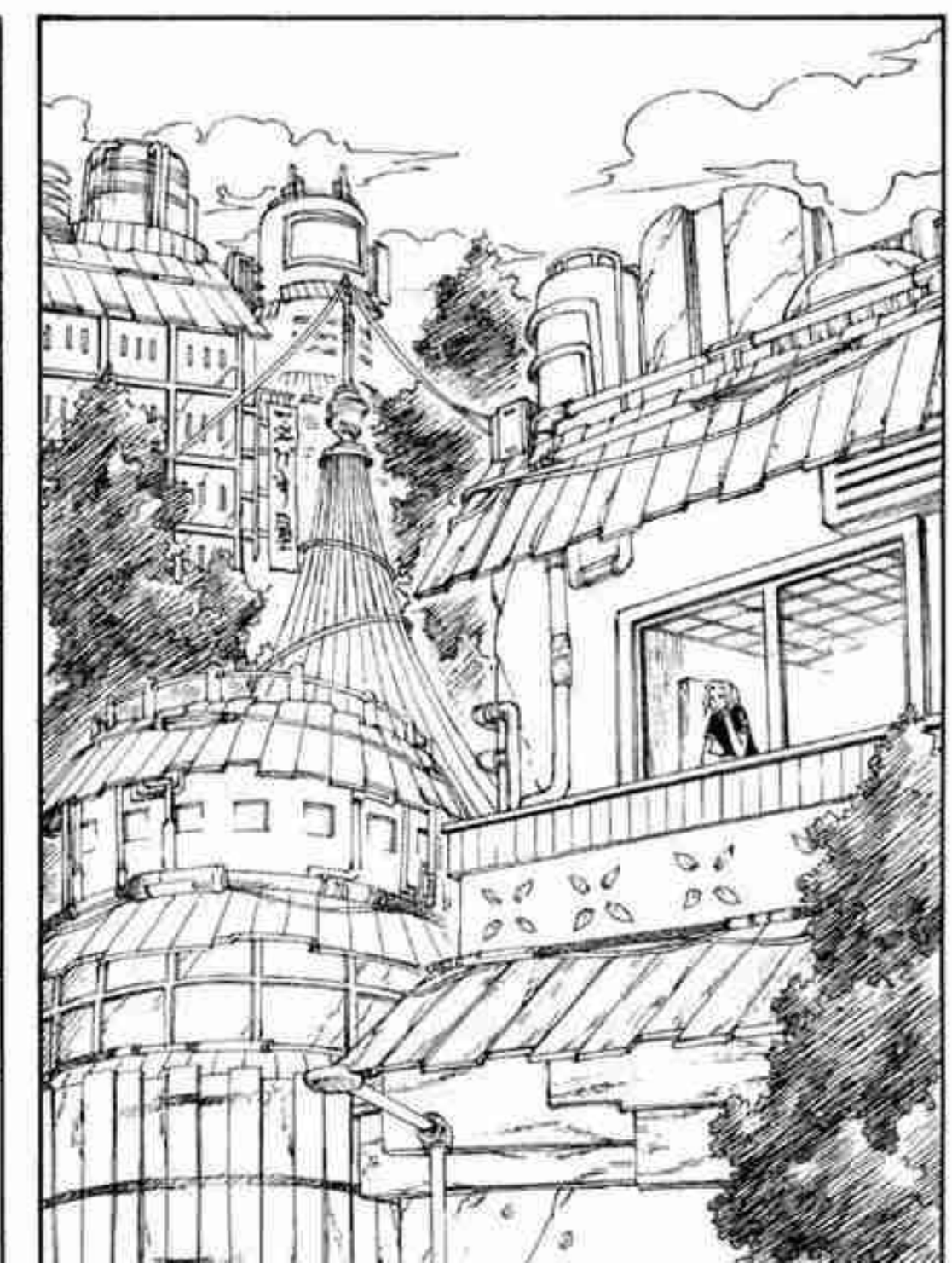
SO WHY DID YOU CHOOSE ME?

WELL... I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHY.


YOU KNOW... A LONG TIME AGO, THE FOURTH HOKAGE WAS MY STUDENT.
AND YOU SEE, IT'S ALMOST FUNNY HOW MUCH YOU KIND OF REMIND ME OF HIM...
油

I REMIND HIM OF THE FOURTH HOKAGE...?





MASTER KAKASHI! TEACH ME THE CHIDORI, WILL YA!

...

HUH?

IT WASN'T ME...

...

...SASUKE... THANKS.

...YOU SAVED ME FROM THE SAND GAUNTLET.

I KNOW NARUTO'S GOTTEN STRONGER TOO, BUT THAT SAND FELLOW...

IT'S TRUE.

OH, COME ON, SASUKE!♡ YOU'RE ALWAYS SO MODEST.

GRR

NARUTO'S THE ONE WHO RESCUED YOU.

EVEN SHOWING A STRENGTH THAT I'VE NEVER SEEN FROM HIM BEFORE.

HE FOUGHT DESPERATELY IN ORDER TO SAVE YOU.

...NARUTO, HUH...

...

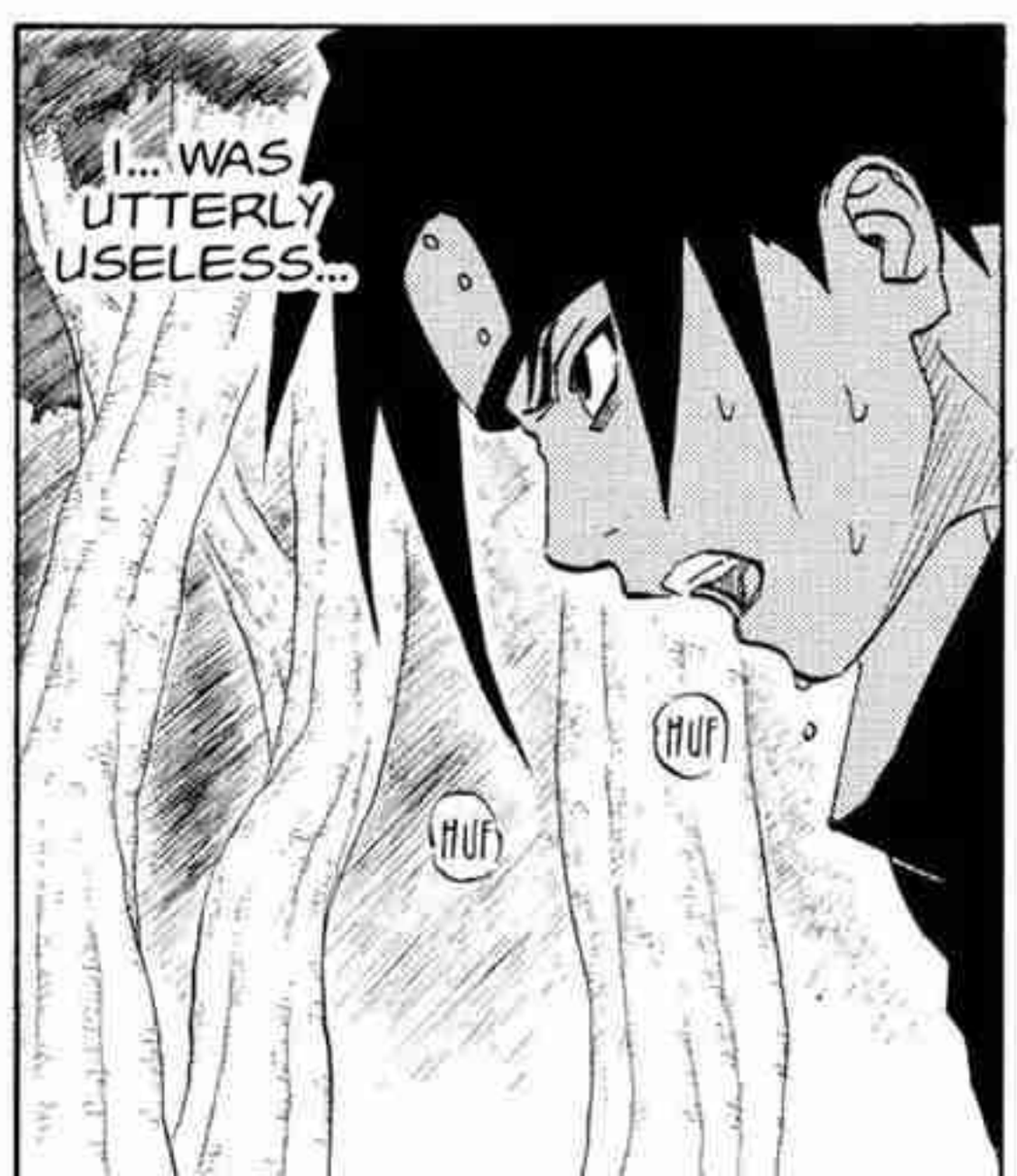
GRR... C'MON CHIDORI! COME ON OUT!

...

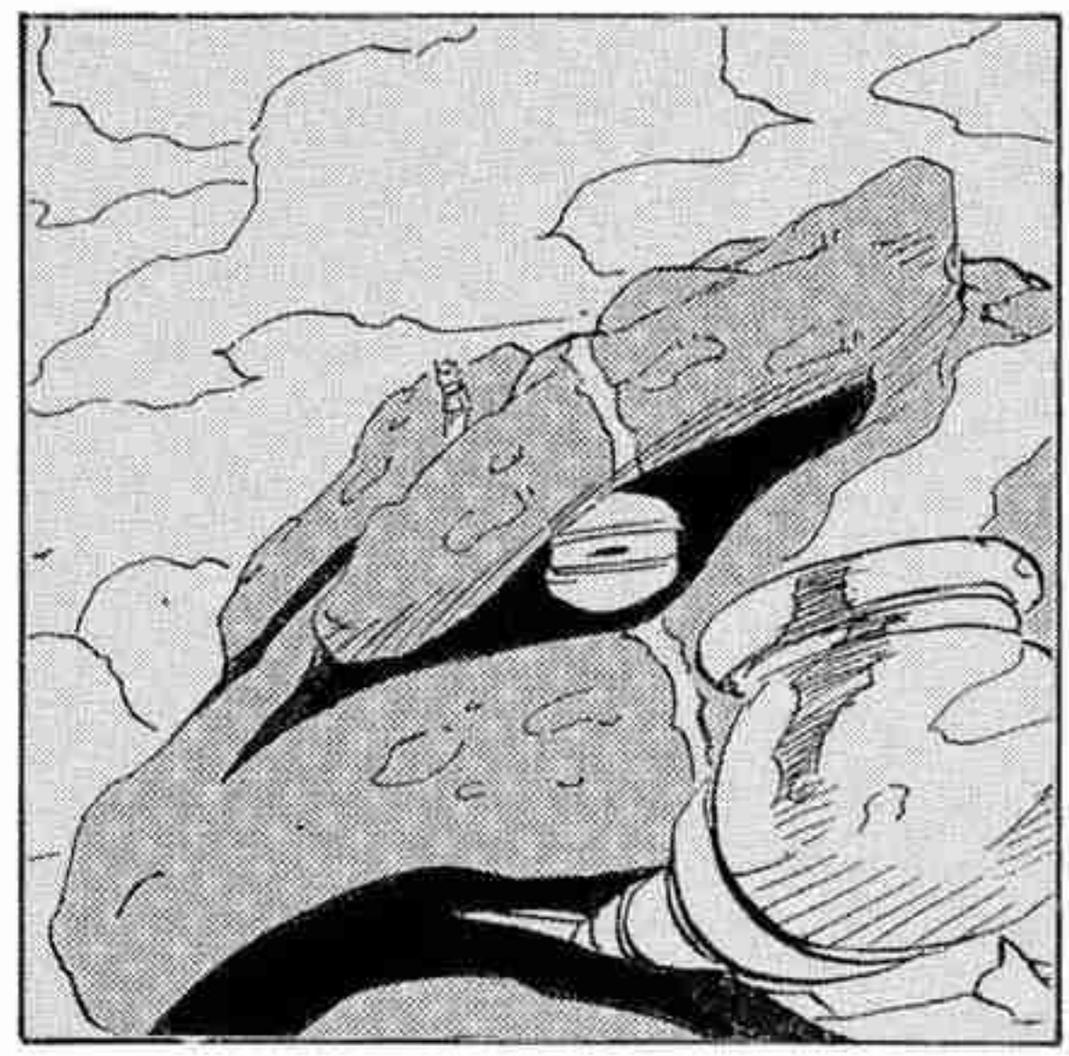
GRIN

HUF
HUF

HUF
HUF

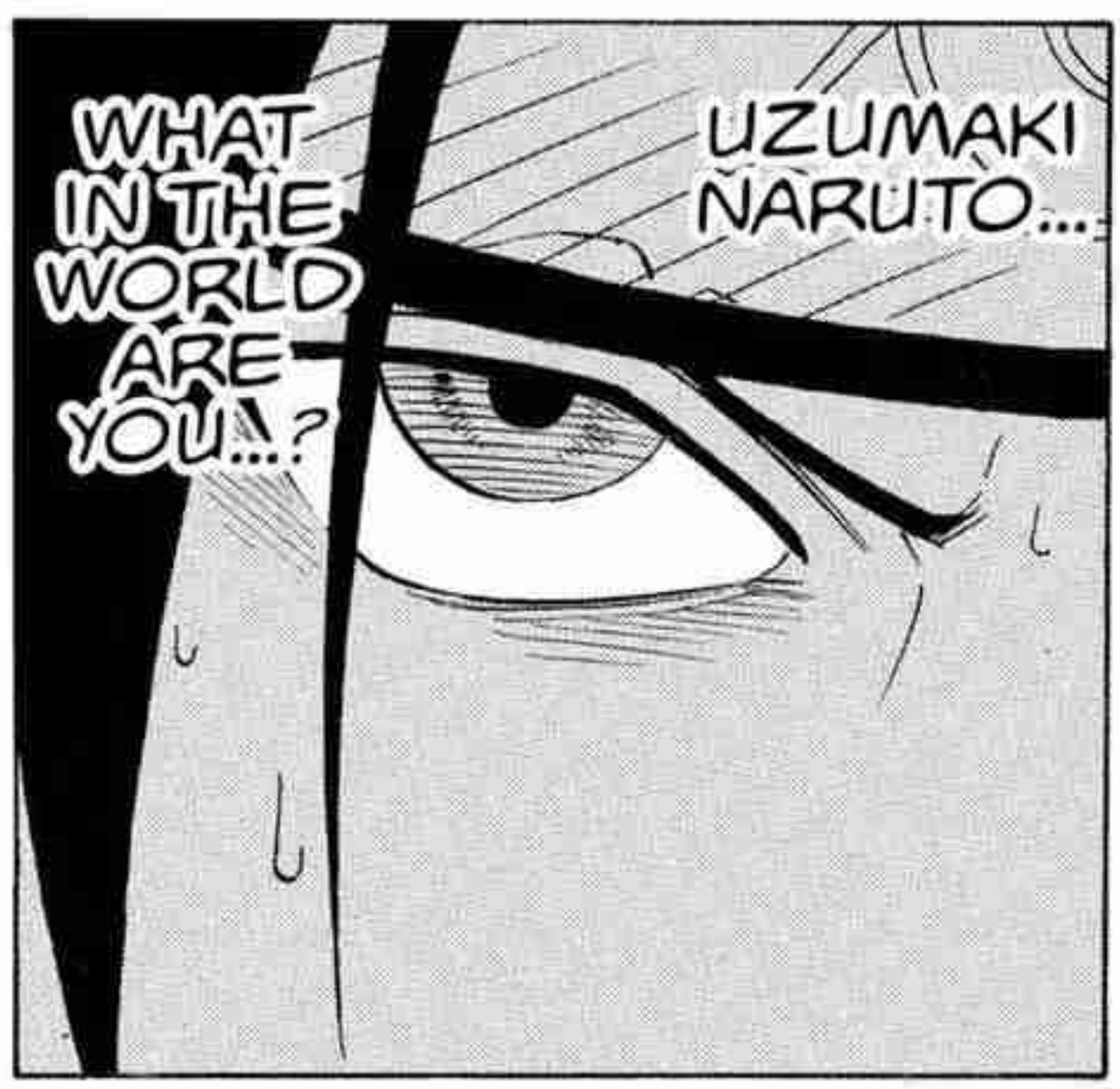

I... WAS UTTERLY USELESS...
HUF
HUF

COMPARED TO OUR NINJA ACADEMY DAYS, WHEN HE WAS CALLED A FAILURE... IT'S VIRTUALLY UNBELIEVABLE PROGRESS!!!
NARUTO KEEPS GETTING STRONGER, ALMOST ABNORMALLY...

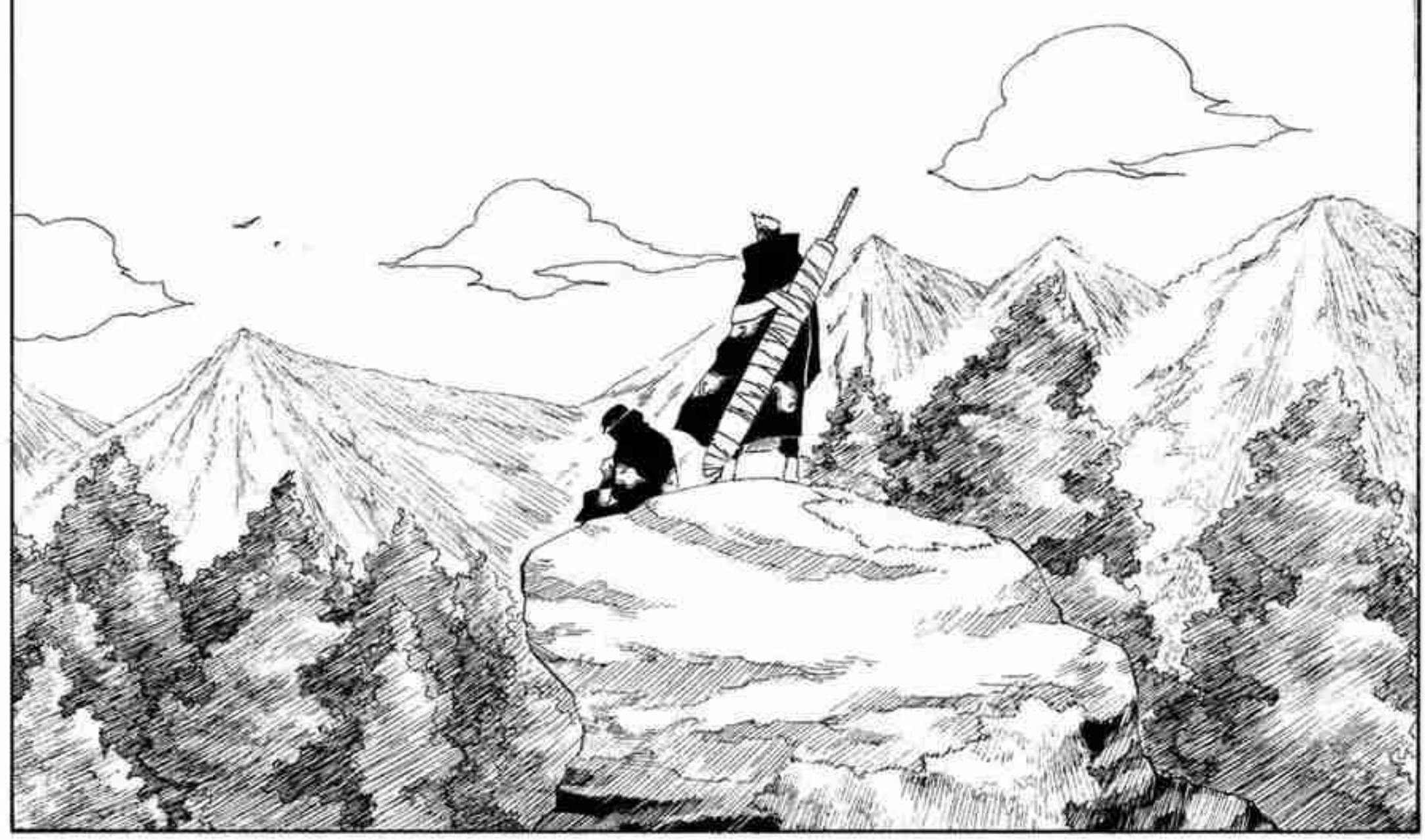


SOMETIMES... I EVEN FEEL AFRAID...
WHEN I WATCH HIM UP CLOSE, I CAN TELL... HE'S... GOT SOME MASSIVE POWER HIDDEN INSIDE HIM...

...I... ...HOW CAN I GET STRONGER...


WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU...?
UZUMAKI NARUTO...

HUF
HUF



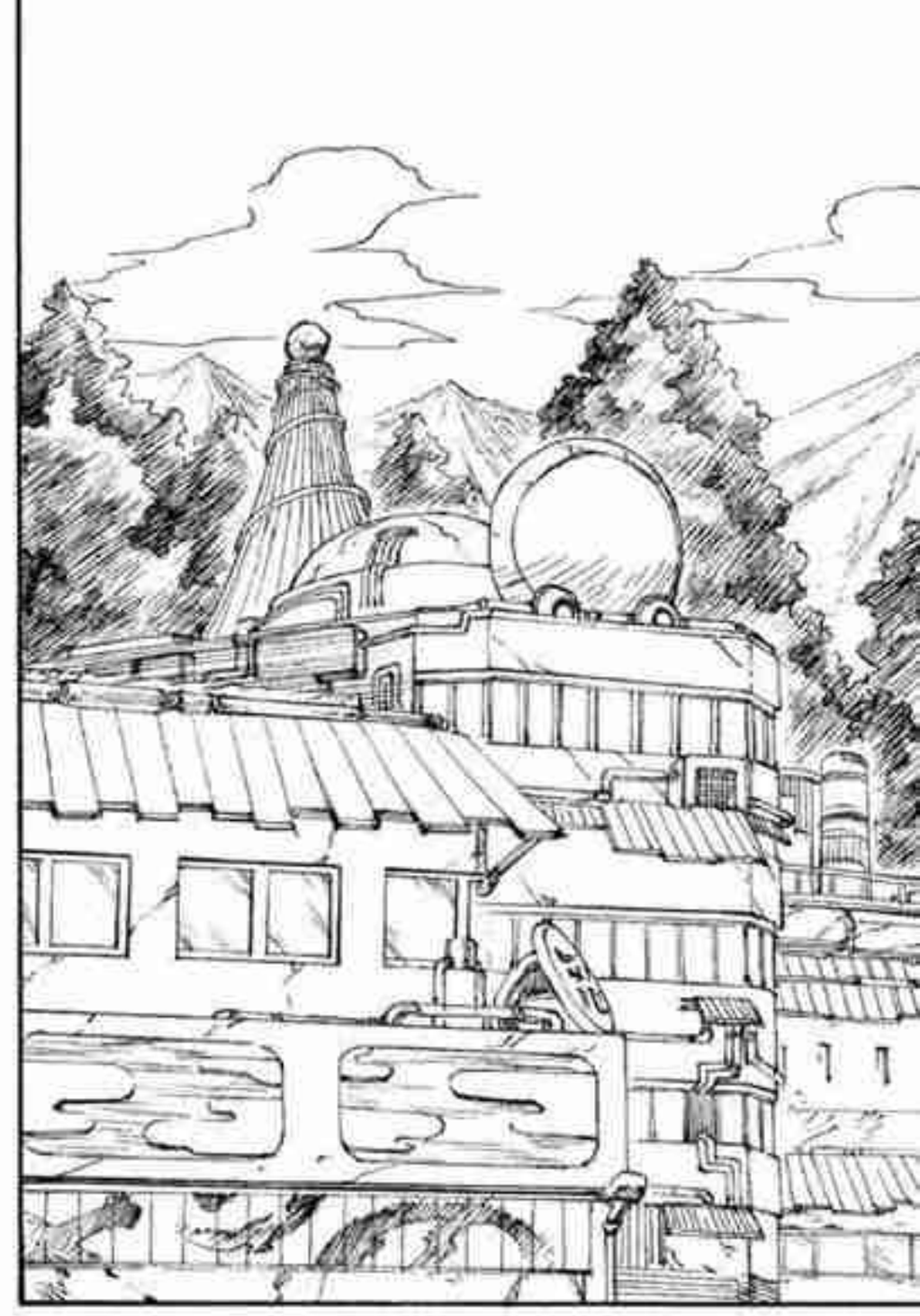
...AND EVEN IF I HAD MORE BACKUP, IT PROBABLY WOULDN'T CHANGE THE OUT-COME.
YEAH... IF WE FACED OFF, WE MIGHT END UP KILLING EACH OTHER.
AT THE VERY LEAST, WE'D HURT EACH OTHER BADLY.

HE'S IN A DIFFERENT LEAGUE.
EVEN IF YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO TAKE HIM ON, I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT ME...

...
YEAH... HOWEVER ...

EVEN THE STRONGEST HEROES HAVE THEIR WEAK-NESSES...

WITH HIM AS OUR ENEMY, EVEN THE TITLES KONOHA'S UCHIHA CLAN AND SEVEN NINJA SWORDSMEN OF THE MIST PALE IN COMPARISON.
IT WAS GREAT FINALLY FINDING HIM AT THE RAMEN SHOP, BUT... HIS BABYSITTER WAS ONE OF THE THREE GREAT SHINOBI OF KONOHA LEGEND.

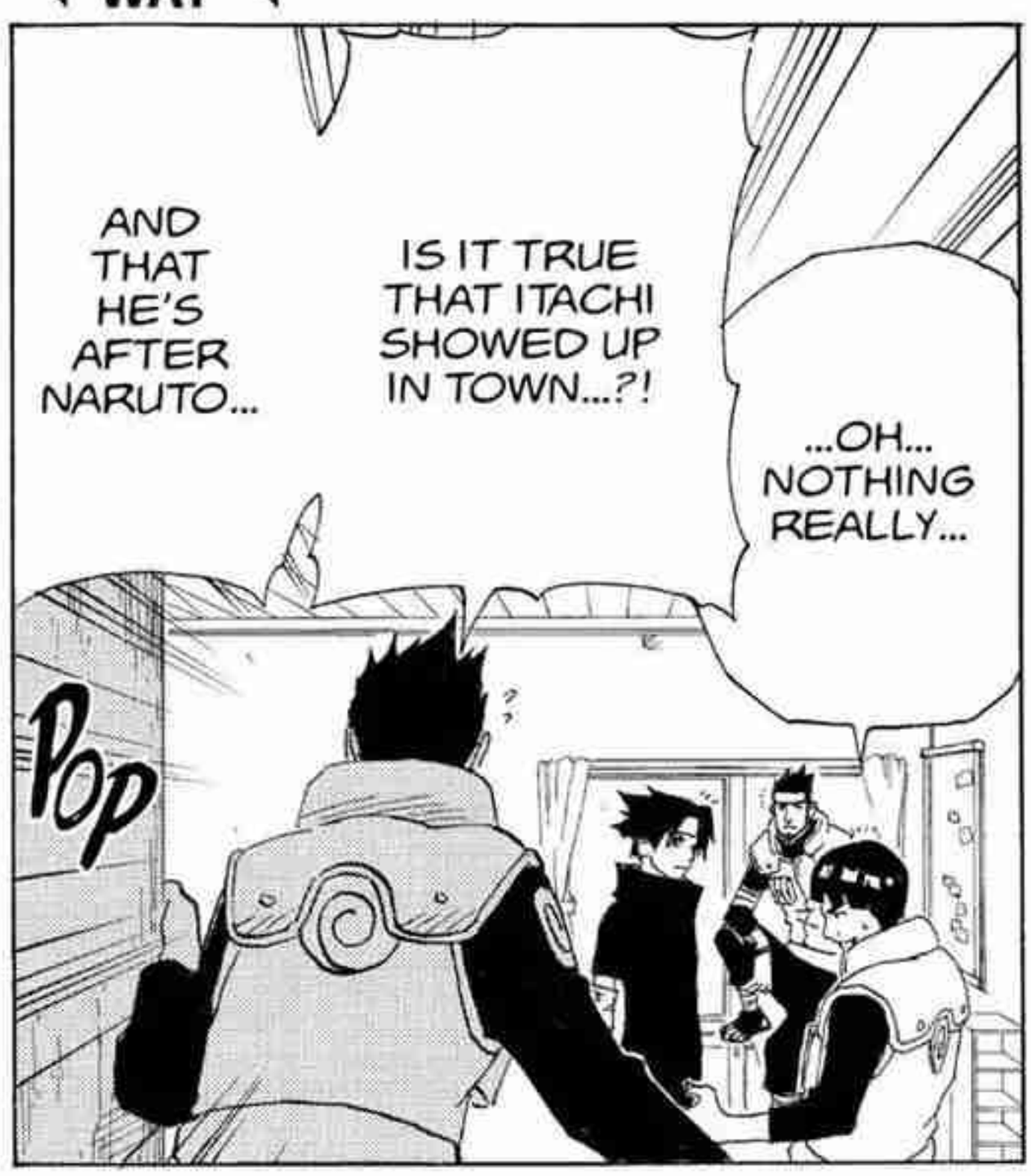


IT'S EASY TO FIND NARUTO IN THE VILLAGE... AND ITACHI KNOWS NARUTO'S FACE.
SHH!
...BUT DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S ODD... THEY'VE ALREADY BEEN HERE INSIDE THE VILLAGE.
FROM THEIR BEHAVIOR, IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THEY'VE FOUND NARUTO YET...

!

KAKASHI...
CLACK

READ
THIS
WAY


AND THAT HE'S AFTER NARUTO...
IS IT TRUE THAT ITACHI SHOWED UP IN TOWN...?!
...OH... NOTHING REALLY...
Pop

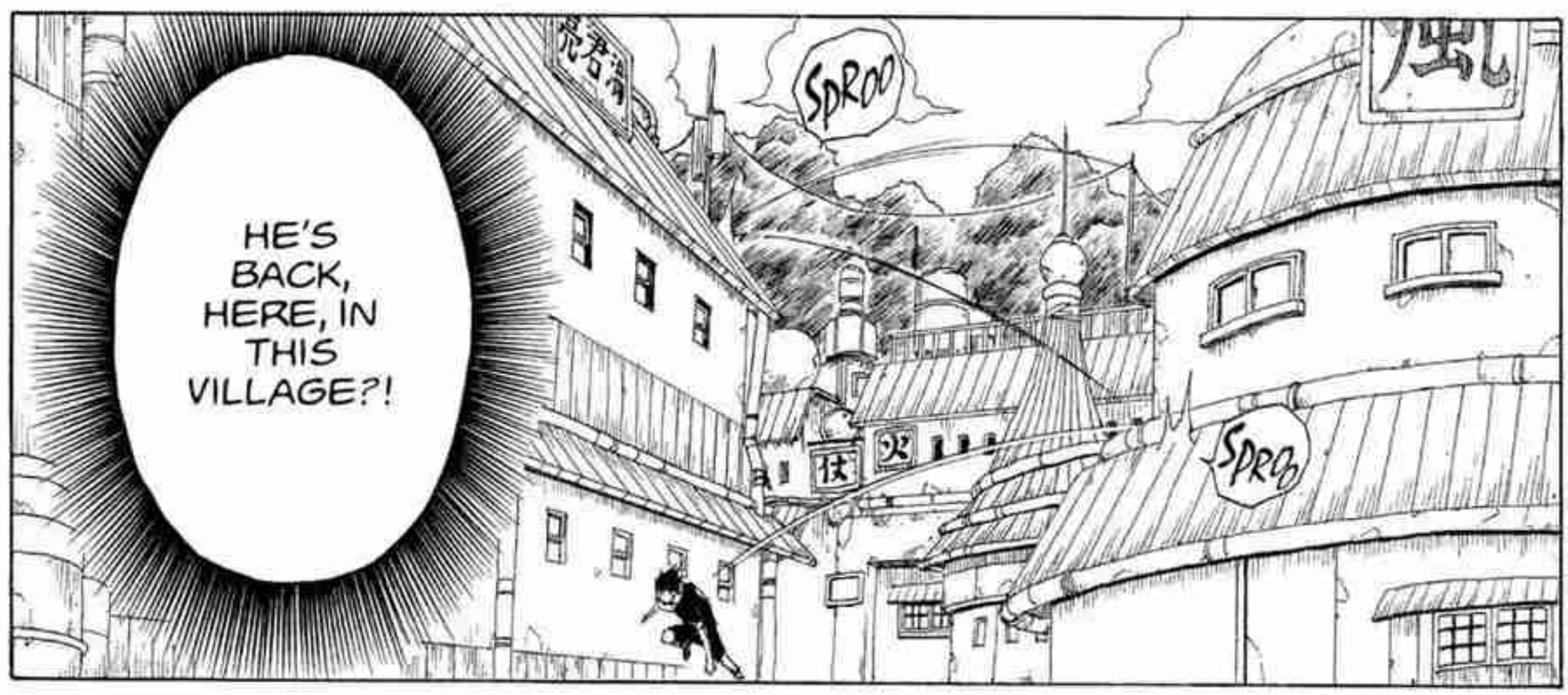
...WHY'S KAKASHI BEDRIDDEN?
AND WHAT ARE ALL YOU JÔNIN DOING HERE... WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON?!

GAH...
IDIOT...

...OH!

WHY DOES IT ALWAYS HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS!!
SHOOO

SHOO
PAK


HE'S BACK, HERE, IN THIS VILLAGE?!
SPROO
SPROO

一楽
メン

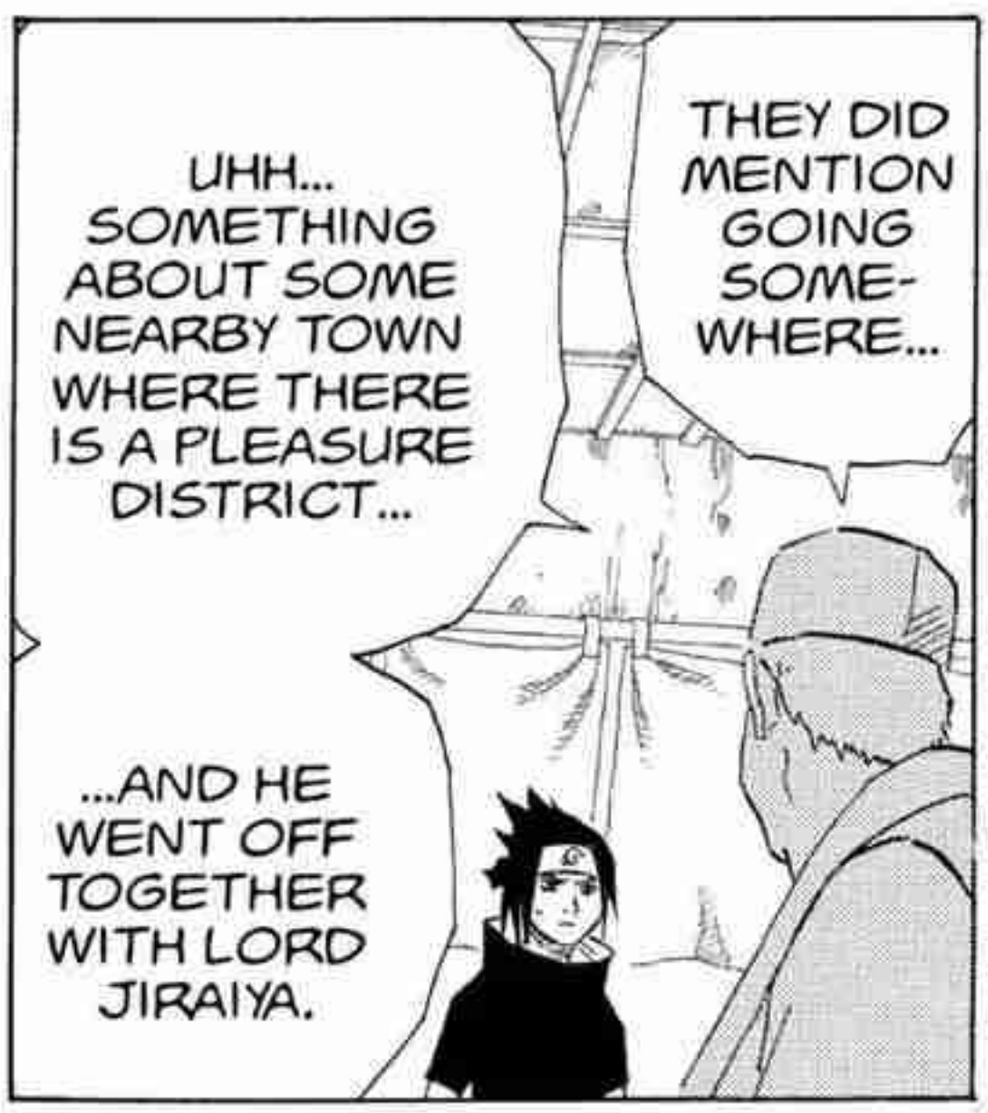
FAP

AND HE'S AFTER NARUTO?!
WHY, WHAT'S GOING ON?!

!
HEY, MISTER! I KNOW NARUTO WAS HERE FOR LUNCH! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE HE WENT AFTER-WARDS?!
I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN!

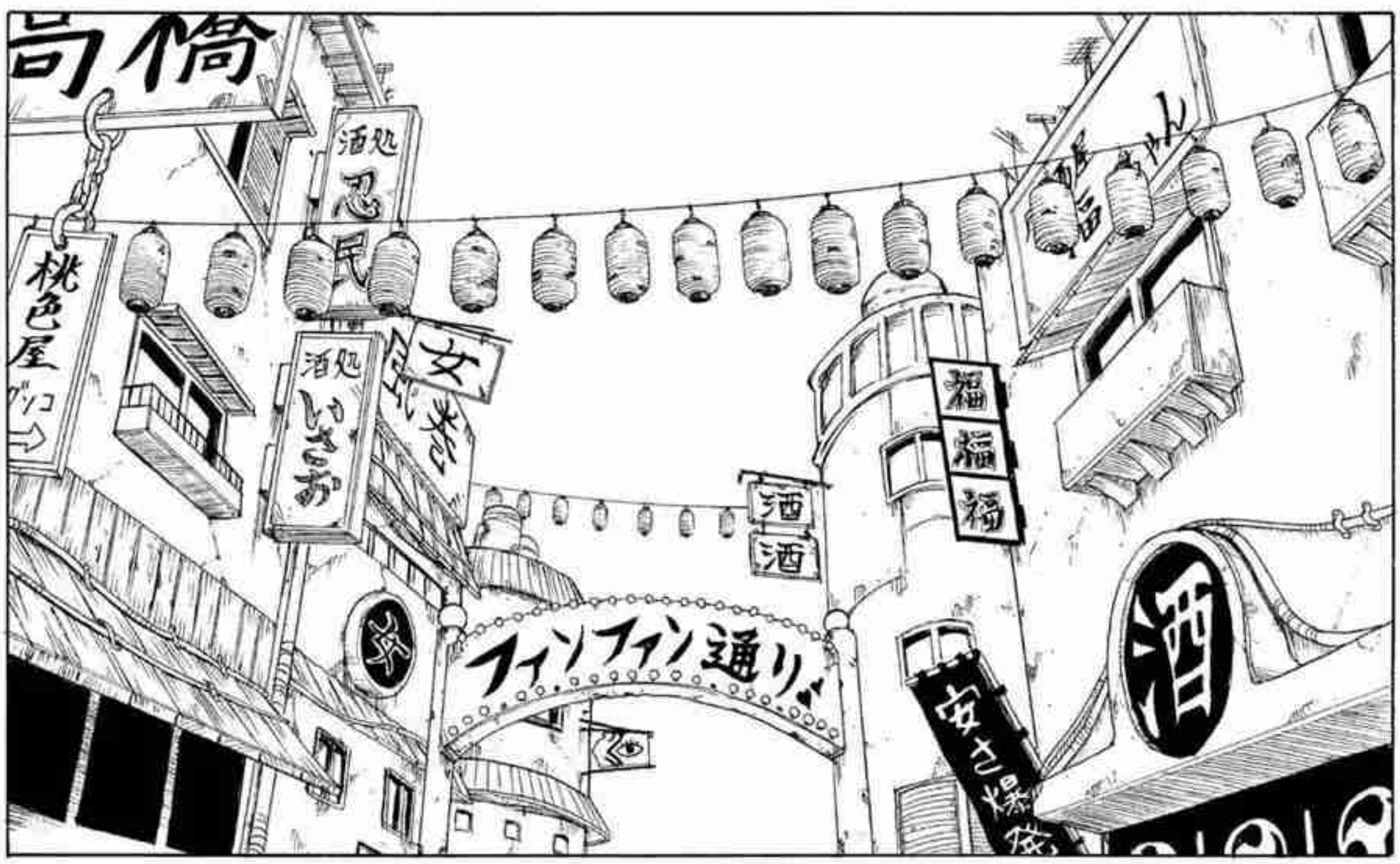
IN ANY CASE... IF HE GETS AHOLD OF HIM... NARUTO'S FINISHED!!
FLAP

JIRAIYA?!


UHH... SOMETHING ABOUT SOME NEARBY TOWN WHERE THERE IS A PLEASURE DISTRICT...
THEY DID MENTION GOING SOME-WHERE...
...AND HE WENT OFF TOGETHER WITH LORD JIRAIYA.

ER, IF I REMEMBER RIGHT... LORD JIRAIYA CAME ALONG AND ATE RAMEN WITH HIM...
HMM, NARUTO, EH.

WELL, HE MAY LOOK LIKE AN ORDINARY WHITE-HAIRED BIG GUY AT FIRST SIGHT, BUT...
LORD JIRAIYA, ONE OF THE PRODIGAL SHINOBI THREE...



(Street Sign: Fun Fun Avenue)

READ THIS WAY
WHOA!!
NARUTO!
LOOK AT HER!!
HUH?!
GLOP GLOP
FAF
ホテル
CLICK
CLICK
YOU CAN'T DRAG ME HERE AND THEN JUST LEAVE ME!!
WHAT?!
PLINK
SLAP
GO UP TO THE ROOM AND PRACTICE MANIPULATING YOUR CHAKRA! EH!
HERE, HERE'S OUR ROOM KEY!

(Forehead: Haku Hatsu Chun, or White Green Center which is a Mah Jong tile formation.)

READ THIS WAY
!
RAP RAP
SHP
AAH! I WONDER IF IT COULD BE THEM... YES, I BELIEVE SO.
WHICH ROOM NUMBER ?!
WHAT, COMING HOME REJECTED ALREADY?
RAD RAD
SHFF
SHLEP SHLEP
RAD RAD
NARUTO!
PAK
CLACK

SHIF

SHEESH, ALL RIGHT ALREADY!
RAP RAP
I'M COMING, I'M COMING!
CLICK

...IT'S NOT THEM...

TO BE CONTINUED IN *NARUTO* VOL. 17!